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MONDAY

30p

EVERY WEEKDAY

Boost for shops that deliver goods

Prescott looks to a golden age of the bus

By PHILLIP WEBSTER AND ARTHUR LEATHLEY

RADICAL plans for shops to pay lower rates if they help the Government in its fight against car pollution and congestion are expected to be announced today.

Stores could win rebates on their uniform business rate if they provide buses for customers and deliver telephoned orders. Ministers accept that people like going to the shops, but it is estimated that one large van delivering goods would cut out at least 20 car journeys.

The ideas will be unveiled today when John Prescott heralds a new "golden age" for the bus — possibly even including buslanes on motorways — as part of his strategy to improve public transport and tackle traffic congestion.

Speaking on BBC television's *Breakfast with Frost* yesterday, Mr Prescott said that there would be a 30 per cent increase in the number of cars on the roads over the next 20 years. To meet that demand he would have to build the equivalent of a 150-lane motorway from London to Leeds: "Now everybody has given up on that daft idea," he said.

Mr Prescott has long been a supporter of bus lanes and there is strong speculation that if he agrees to widen the M25 in Surrey to up to 12 lanes, one lane in each direction will be for buses only.

The Deputy Prime Minister said yesterday that he wanted the bus to be the form of transport to take Britain into



‘I look back on 15 years of hard labour, the penance you serve if you drive your children to school’

Valerie Grove's nightmare, page 17

the millennium. He said: "The bus has been seen as the workhorse. I want to see it as the racehorse — good quality, good standards, more reliable. If you are sitting in your car and the bus goes whizzing past it should make you think twice about whether you are in the right form of transport."

Mr Prescott also confirmed that the Government will be allowed to impose new charges for parking and entering big cities. And he is looking at plans to give special help to supermarkets, hauliers and manufacturers to carry their products by rail or water.

A proposal to introduce road charging was given a cautious welcome yesterday by Steve Norris, director general of the Road Haulage Association and former Conservative Transport Minister. He told *The Sunday Programme* on GMTV that the idea would work if it was not seen to be anti-car. "If this is seen to be an attack on only a car, then Middle England will say 'no'. If it's seen as actually providing a really attractive alternative, then I think people will say quite happily 'yes'."

Mr Prescott insisted that his proposals today were all about persuading people to use public transport rather than forcing them out of their cars. "I am not anti-motorist," he said. "But everyone agrees that we cannot go on like this. One of the big growth areas is people buying second or even third

cars. We have got to make our public transport system so good that they do not even think they need to do that."

There was growing acceptance that "we cannot build our way out of this". If people cut out just one in ten of their shopping or leisure journeys, it would have a huge impact.

Mr Prescott will also confirm that councils will be allowed to impose new charges for parking and entering big cities. And he is looking at plans to give special help to supermarkets, hauliers and manufacturers to carry their products by rail or water.

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Some 25 years ago a third of children walked to school; now only a ninth do so and a fifth of peaktime journeys are made by parents taking children to school.

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Busy doing nothing, page 6
Six lanes of change, page 8



Justin Rose celebrating a birdie on the 18th yesterday: his flashing smile has endeared him to the Open gallery

Michael Owen of golf wins all hearts

By PETER FOSTER

JUSTIN ROSE confirmed his position as the great hope of British golf yesterday when he became the first amateur to finish in the top five of the Open since 1953.

The most senior golf tournament was won after a tense four-hole playoff by the US Masters Champion Mark O'Meara, who picked up a cheque for £300,000 with the coveted Claret Jug.

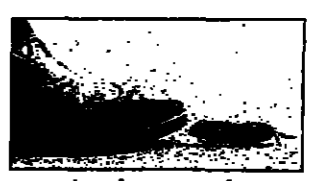
But for the 17-year-old amateur Rose, the only reward was a silver medal and the pleasure he gave to his thousands of supporters.

Had he turned professional last week Rose would have won £69,875. His family spent almost £4,000 for their son to take part in the tournament at the Royal Birkdale course.

The last time an amateur performed better was at the 1953 Open at Carnoustie when Frank Stranahan was tied in second place with Ben Hogan.

Last night the South African-born teenager who has already been compared to Tiger Woods, the world number one, was on the verge of turning professional. The intense media coverage has seen clothing and club manufacturers queuing up to sponsor Rose who surprised commentators by his cool play in the final two rounds. He finished in joint fourth place on 282 strokes, 2 over.

With his flashing smile Rose has endeared himself to the galleries, inviting comparisons with another bright young star of British sport, the Liverpool footballer Michael Owen. Pages 25, 27



A vole narrowly escapes Rose's caddie

Fears grow for tidal wave victims

FROM ROGER MAYNARD IN SYDNEY

THE hunt for hundreds of missing victims of the devastating tidal wave that hit three towns in Papua New Guinea resumed at first light as fears grew that there may be as many as 2,000 victims.

The shoreline was littered with bloated bodies and hundreds more were decomposing in the sodden jungle along a 19-mile stretch of the coast. At least 6,000 people are estimated to have been left homeless out of a population of about 10,000 in the coastal towns.

"They're dead... they're all

dead," said Dixon Dalle, a disaster control officer. He said survivors fled to the bush fearing a second wave, making the final toll difficult to estimate. "There are still people out there who are injured that we have not rescued," he said.

Jerry Apuan, a fisherman from Aitape, said he was unable to count all the bodies in the water as he took his dinghy through the sea. "In one place, there were so many bodies together. I had to move the boat slowly to pass through them," he said.

Three helicopters ferried the dead and injured to Aitape,

about 60 miles to the west, where waiting relatives waited to learn who had died and who survived.

John Moipu of the Aitape Catholic mission estimated that the toll could rise to 2,000. He said the dead were being buried because they were decomposing quickly in the heat. Many survivors were injured, mostly suffering broken bones as their beach homes, built on stilts of flimsy bush materials, were torn apart.

Three Royal Australian Air Force Hercules aircraft were due to leave Sydney last night with emergency provisions, urgent medical supplies and a

team of 40 to 50 doctors and nurses.

Brian Cassey, an Associated Press photographer who flew over the Sissano lagoon yesterday, said the beaches on which a number of villages had been built had been swept clean. "They no longer exist... the lagoon is filled with debris, coconut palms and what used to be houses," he said.

In Arop village, where locals said about 2,000 people lived, there had been no sign of life and no bodies were visible from the air. "The place is desolate. Not a soul is there."

Death toll rises, page 11

Cutting back Brussels

MPs from Westminster and other European Union countries would gain a foothold in the European Parliament under proposals being considered by Britain to trim the power of Brussels.

Between 50 and 60 members of the British and other parliaments would be sent to Strasbourg to sit in a second chamber. Page 2

Controversy at Canterbury

The Lambeth Conference began controversially when it invited a woman bishop to say prayers at Canterbury Cathedral. The Right Rev Chilton Knudsen, Bishop of Maine and the newest of the Anglican Church's 11 women bishops, led the intercessions. Page 5

Paris plumage



The British designer Alexander McQueen showed this feathered head-dress influenced by the Amazon rainforest at his spectacular autumn/winter haute couture show — his fourth for Givenchy — at the Cirque d'Hiver in Paris. Page 3

Teachers threaten to strike over pay

By ANDREW PIERCE AND VICTORIA FLETCHER

THE Government is facing its first serious showdown with the trade unions as teachers' leaders yesterday threatened industrial action over plans to link their performance to pay.

The National Union of Teachers forecast the return of industrial strife in Britain's schools unless the Government backed down over the issue and increased teachers' pay across the board.

As education ministers defended the plan, an unrepentant Gordon Brown was preparing for a confrontation today with the TUC by rejecting demands for a relaxation of the tight grip on public sector pay. The Chancellor will also dismiss a plea by TUC leaders, who are meeting him today at Downing Street, for a £3 billion job-creation programme to head off recession.

Pressure intensified on the Chancellor yesterday when the Confederation of British Industry gave a warning that the country was heading for recession. Adair Turner, the director general, said the manufacturing sector had experienced a "sharp slowdown" and that the strong pound had damaged Britain's exports. He told GMTV's *The Sunday Programme*: "It's become quite clear to us that the situation has deteriorated significantly there over the last couple of months."

The fear of rising unemployment was underlined by the release today of a report by an independent research group.

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Hope for pavement puffers

FROM BRONWEN MADDOX IN WASHINGTON

SMOKING inside offices and restaurants, which is rapidly vanishing across America, could be on the way back after a startling court ruling that "secondhand smoke" should not be classified as a dangerous cancer-causing agent.

The federal court judgment has been hailed by smokers from coast to coast to help them to overturn the thousands of state and local bans on smoking.

The court ruled that a highly-controversial 1993 report by the Environmental Protection Agency was wrong to conclude that smoke from nearby cigarettes was a "Class A carcinogen", responsible for 3,000 deaths a year.

US District Court Judge Thomas Osteen issued an opinion late on Friday that the EPA had not scientifically established its case that secondhand smoke was dangerous to non-smokers. The EPA Administrator called the opinion "disturbing"

... it's so widely accepted that secondhand smoke causes very real problems for kids and adults", according to the *Washington Post*.

The EPA, which has seen the 1993 report as one of its greatest contributions to national health, is expected to

appeal against the decision. The judge's comments reopen the long-standing controversy about the scientific basis for charges that secondhand smoke is damaging. Few even in the tobacco industry dispute that smoking is bad for health and can cause lung cancer. But it is much harder to establish a link between cancer and secondhand smoking, where the concentrations are far lower.

Judge Osteen said that the EPA did not demonstrate a statistically significant association between secondhand smoking and lung cancer.

The 1993 report gave extra impetus to a trend in America, where disapproval of smoking has soared on the back of the fitness boom. Many offices and restaurants proudly declare themselves "smoke-free zones", their real advertised by joyful huddles of smokers on the pavements outside the front door even in the coldest



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Britain wants Strasbourg role for MPs

Robin Cook has asked for ideas to reduce the power of the European Commission, reports Philip Webster

PARLIAMENTARIANS from Westminster and their European Union counterparts would gain a foothold in the European Parliament under radical proposals being considered by Britain to trim the power of Brussels.

Between 50 and 60 members of the British and other parliaments would be sent to Strasbourg to sit in a second chamber in a move to get national MPs much more directly involved in European legislation.

The British Government is also expected to recommend a powerful new code of conduct designed to stop the European Commission or individual EU countries coming forward with legislative proposals that are better handled in national parliaments.

The ideas are being looked at as part of Britain's contribution to a summit of European heads of government in Vienna in October, called to look at ways of bringing Europe closer to its people.

It aims to build on the momentum for change created at the Cardiff summit by the joint call from Helmut Kohl and Jacques Chirac for curbs on the EU's centralised powers.

Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary, has asked a powerful group of officials headed by Robert Cooper, Britain's number two diplomat in Bonn, and Nigel Steinhilber, director of the Foreign Office's EU departments, to produce proposals for the British paper.

pace with the speed of the Brussels legislative process and ministers believe that MPs from the EU should be brought in to the process at an earlier stage.

Orange Order rift widens as chaplains quit over Drumcree

By Audrey Magee, Ireland Correspondent

DIVISIONS within the Orange Order over events at Drumcree grew yesterday with the resignation of at least three chaplains in protest at the violent stand-off.

The chaplains, all long-term members of the order, left because they no longer wanted to be associated with the sectarian hatred stirred up by the Portadown Orangemen that culminated in the murders last week of the three Quinn boys when their home was firebombed.

The resignations were confirmed by the Rev Robert Boyd, the county grand chaplain of Tyrone and a Church of Ireland minister. He said that more chaplains would probably follow suit and admitted to having serious doubts about his own position.



Maureen Kearney, whose son Andrew was murdered at the weekend, with his baby

Victim's family says that IRA murdered him

By Audrey Magee, Ireland Correspondent

THE family of a Roman Catholic man who died to death after a so-called punishment shooting has blamed the IRA for his murder.

Andrew Kearney, 33, was dragged from his flat early yesterday in the republican New Lodge area of Belfast and shot twice in the back of the legs. His sister Eleanor said: "Everything points to it being the IRA. Whether it is sanctioned or not by the IRA we do not know, but we know it was definitely the IRA."



Andrew Kearney: shot and dumped outside flat

Data protection law delayed

By Frances Gibb, Legal Correspondent

NEW laws extending the rights of individuals to prevent personal data being used against their wishes and to stop targeting by junk mailers have been delayed until next year.

organised by Privacy Laws and Business, an advisory company on data protection, last week that the legislation could not be drafted, consulted on and parliamentary approval obtained before the end of this year "at the earliest".

Teachers threaten to strike over pay plan

Continued from page 1 the Ernst & Young Item Club, which forecasts that the total would soar above two million because of the handout to the public services in the Comprehensive Spending Review.

als will include financial rewards for those achieving good results, a fast-track promotion package to attract more graduates, and substantial pay incentives to encourage the best teachers to remain in the profession.

hand. We have to get people over this hurdle of saying either everyone gets a modest pay increase or it's a betrayal of the profession. We can do quite a lot for a substantial proportion of teachers."

Safety fears halt national university boxing event

By Victoria Fletcher

THE national university boxing championships are to be suspended indefinitely because organisers cannot ensure the safety of competitors.

out in one bout, but within days was fighting in the BUSA championships. BUSA, which organises all the major inter-university sports fixtures, has said it cannot legally risk organising matches if the health of the competitors is in doubt.

But a BUSA spokesman said: "This is probably just a temporary move, but the BUSA Boxing Championships are suspended for the next year. Until boxing has put its house in order, safety rules cannot be enforced."

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Gaultier scores for France with a long shot

FROM GRACE BRADBERRY IN PARIS

WILL NOTHING go wrong for the French this summer? After the World Cup victory, Jean-Paul Gaultier, the country's sometime *enfant terrible*, produced his best collection for years at the start of the haute couture shows yesterday.

Ironically, the man who has spent much of the past 20 years rebelling against the rules of Parisian haute couture now looks like becoming its greatest French star.

It was only his fourth collection. It was vintage stuff, clever but always beautiful, witty but never weird, and technically brilliant throughout.

It moved from a Scottish castle feel with Esther Candas in a full mohair skirt in dusty pink and soft green tartans and outfits with long kilt skirts, to an avant-garde take on the bohemianism of the 1920s and 1930s.

The 46-year-old designer opened the collection with a long, black dress of sunray pleats, with a jewelled chain belt, and a closed with an Aran elongated sweater dress. In between were some fabulously opulent clothes: beaded tapestry-work blouses, jackets with a fur lattice, bird-of-paradise feathered sleeves that fanned upwards at the shoulders; a bustier of gold beadwork, braisere out at the neckline of a half-cup bustier evening dress.

Gaultier mixed in "street" elements more successfully than most designers — the belted leather jackets with fur trims looked wearable as well as kitsch. So what if couture clients only see the street from behind the bullet-proof glass of their limos?

Should they wish to go out in disguise, Gaultier thoughtfully provided black crepe trench-coat with more than a hint of espionage about them.

The presentation was simple, with muslin swathed around chandeliers and stucco work at a college on the Left Bank.

Alexander for Givenchy, staged a spectacular opening to his autumn/winter haute couture show at the Cirque d'Hiver. A lady-Godiva figure in rose-strewn tulle was carried on a Spanish dressage horse, into a ring that had been transformed into an Amazonian rainforest.

Curiously, there were also Russian influences in the show, with Ballet Russes style fur capes, and a red velvet full-length dress with gold embroidery at the front. Like Gaultier, McQueen, 29, was showing his fourth haute couture collection. His long, lean jackets with lapels that curve out from the body have become a signature, as have his leather suits in concentric, geometric patterns.

Gaultier's fourth haut couture collection featured fur and feathers in a blend with street elements. Opulent garments included this feather-sleeved jacket, above

Bell marries for the third time (and the groom wore white)

By ANDREW PIERCE
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

MARTIN BELL, the war correspondent turned independent MP, has secretly married for a third time. His new wife, a brochure designer, is almost half his age.

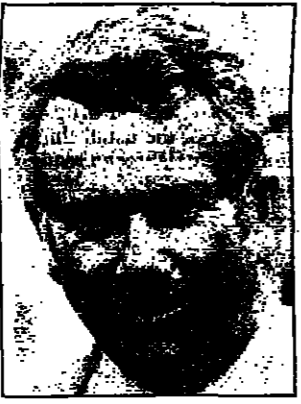
Strict secrecy surrounded the wedding of Mr Bell, 59, and Fiona Goddard, 32, at Canterbury Register Office. Mr Bell wore his trademark suit at Friday's ceremony. His bride also wore white. The reception was held in her cottage in Egerton, Kent.

Mr Bell's daughter, Melissa, 25, who ran his election campaign, was one of only 12 guests. Mr Bell's other daughter, Catherine, 22, was in America. Jessica Sobel, the stepdaughter reunited with Mr Bell this year after a ten-year estrangement, was not present.

"I am very happy. She is lovely, beautiful and gorgeous. God knows what she sees in me," Mr Bell, the award-winning former BBC correspondent, said last night.

Asked about the age gap, Mr Bell said: "Nelson Mandela started the trend. I am following suit." He added: "This will be the last Mrs Bell."

His wife, the daughter of Robert Goddard, a Tory-supporting Kent farmer who publicly opposed his son-in-law's



Bell kept his bride hidden from cameras

decision to stand against Neil Hamilton, started work as a project manager at a London fashion house two weeks ago. Mrs Bell, whose mother died two years ago, previously worked in brochure design for an investment bank.

The honeymoon has been delayed because of an overseas trip and an impending hip replacement operation for Mr Bell. The MP flies to Africa on Sunday for a week-long visit to a Unicef project. When he returns he will immediately check into hospital for the operation.

The couple met at a London launch of Mr Bell's book about his exploits as a war correspondent in Bosnia, where he was wounded. During the election campaign he

kept her firmly out of sight. When a tabloid newspaper closed in, Ms Goddard booked on the first available flight from Gatwick airport and left the country.

She even stayed away from Melissa Bell's marriage to Peter Bracken, an army major. She arrived at the reception after the photographers had disappeared.

There are no photographs of her own big day. Only one guest had a camera and the film was destroyed when he opened the back of the camera.

Mr Bell's daughters are from his first marriage to Helene Gourdon. He once described his second marriage, to Rebecca Sobel, an American journalist, as "four years of pure disaster".

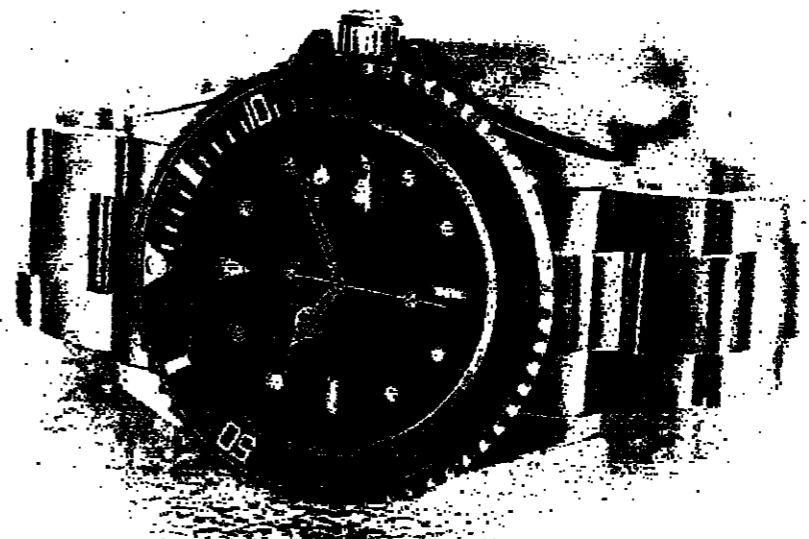
The MP, who plans to stand down at the next election, said: "This wedding has been in the pipeline for some time now but I had just been awaiting for an appropriate date. I purposely kept it quiet because I wanted to introduce Fiona to the constituency."

There are no plans for his wife to emulate Christine Hamilton, who was her husband's secretary and political mentor and chief tormentor of Mr Bell during the election campaign. "Fiona has her own career and will not be a political wife in the same sense as Christine is to Neil Hamilton," he said.



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Paper 'sorry' as Princes' cunning plan is spoiled

By ALAN HAMILTON

A SUNDAY newspaper said it regretted that Prince William and Prince Harry were upset yesterday, after publishing details of a surprise party they have planned to celebrate their father's 50th birthday.

The party will go ahead later this month, but a statement issued on behalf of the princes by St James's Palace made clear their disappointment at the discovery of an elaborate and carefully planned plot of which the

Prince of Wales had no knowledge. Prince William is believed to have had the original idea for a performance based on the TV series *Blackadder*.

It has been speculated that Prince William will take the part of the dastardly schemer Edmund Blackadder, played in the series by Rowan Atkinson, while Prince Harry assumes the role of the hapless Baldrick, inventor of cunning plans notable only for their divine idiocy. A Palace spokesman said: "That sur-

prise has now been spoiled. In view of the obvious secret nature of a party being planned by two children as a surprise for their father, the Prince of Wales is sad that the newspaper involved did not handle the information it received with greater common sense and courtesy."

Last night a statement from *The Sunday Mirror* said: "The Sunday Mirror regrets that Princes William and Harry are upset that news concerning the play was leaked."

The party will be an early celebration of the Prince's 50th birthday, which falls on 14 November. It will be the first function in the Orchard Room, the controversial conference centre recently completed at a cost of £1 million.

The comedy has been organised with the connivance of several showbusiness stars including the actors Emma Thompson and Stephen Fry. One hundred invited guests are expected to pay £25 a head to watch Prince William's brainchild.



The conference centre party is its first function

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Being on-line is as important a part of day-to-day communications as having access to a telephone or fax machine. A mobile phone is now accepted as a standard tool for business, anyone who travels without one is seen as being in the Dark Ages. You take one and stay in touch. There is no reason why you should not be similarly enlightened with mobile data. Access to your e-mail, office network and fax wherever you can use your mobile phone.

What is mobile data?

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Make sure you are ready to log onto the World Wide Web to pick up the details when your rivals announce their latest products. With mobile

data you can do this wherever you are. The mobile phone freed you from having to stay in the office for an important call, mobile data will free you from being tied to your office PC. You can make sure that you are as well informed as your customers and suppliers by logging on from anywhere in the world and reading the information. Ericsson's new SH888 makes accessing the Internet on the move a practical proposition.

Have you ever tried to use a computer and modem in a hotel room and given up?

If you are a frequent traveller accessing

data, you may have found it less straightforward than it should be. You need all the right connectors. To plug a computer into a standard telephone socket means that you need the right lead. Different countries have a bizarre and incompatible range of

sockets. With the SH888 you don't need to worry about sockets and cables because it has an in-built PC card and communicates with your computer directly by infra-red using the same technology as a TV remote control. For international calls a mobile phone can also be substantially cheaper than paying hotel rates.

Why is the SH888 the best phone for mobile data?

To transfer data, PCs require a modem. Before the Ericsson SH888, a portable PC modem was contained in a PC card, which slotted inside

data, the drain on the battery is nominal too. And because it supports the IrDA protocol it is compatible with the widest range of PCs, laptops and PDAs (operating Windows CE 2.0). It's even compatible with the Psion 5 and the Palm III.

So how do I use the SH888 to connect to the Internet?

Connecting to the Internet with the SH888 is extremely simple, but it must be noted that you cannot just buy the hardware, switch it on and expect to browse the web. Firstly you have to subscribe to an Internet service provider, either privately or through your company and then each time follow these simple steps. Activate your PC or PDA's infra-red port, select "Activate IR port" on the SH888's menu. Place the phone next to the computer, ensuring the infra-red ports are facing each other. Then either log into your office network or dial into your Internet service provider. Click onto your Internet icon and enter your desired address. For faster downloading you can opt to turn the images off.

And how do I use the SH888 for e-mail?

Sending and receiving e-mail is as simple as connecting to the Internet and follows much the same pattern - so again, you must have an e-mail

account with a service provider either privately or through your office. Switch on your PC and phone, line up the infra-red ports and to send or receive e-mail, dial into your office or service provider. Then click on the e-mail or the in-box icons. You need only be on-line to transmit and receive e-mails, so you can read and write them at your leisure without tying up your phone line, keeping your costs down as well as your line free for other business.

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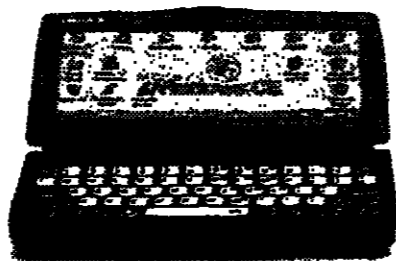
The SH888's already superior sound design supports EFR (Enhanced Full Rate speech coding) providing speech and reception quality you'd expect from a land line phone. Sleek, black and futuristic with a three line display, it looks as good as it sounds.

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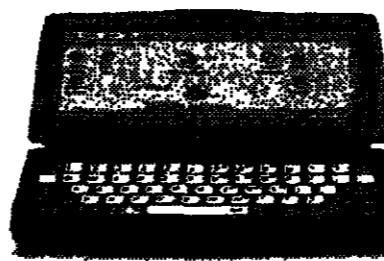
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Select "Activate IR port" on the SH888 menu.



Put the phone next to the computer with the infra-red ports facing each other and log on using your standard PC software.

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ERICSSON

Archbishop dares to be different

Dr George Carey broke tradition with multicultural start to Lambeth Conference, reports Ruth Gledhill

THE Lambeth Conference began on a note of controversy yesterday when it broke centuries of Anglican tradition by inviting a woman bishop to say prayers at Canterbury Cathedral.

The Right Rev Chilton Knusden, Bishop of Maine and the newest of the Anglican Church's 11 women bishops, led the intercessions at a colourful and exotic communion service.

She was included in the liturgy despite protests from traditionalists, led by the Right Rev Noel Debrov Jones, Bishop of Sodor and Man. They asked the Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr George Carey, not to invite a woman bishop to say prayers.

"To have 780 bishops and to ask one of 11 women to take part did seem a bit like tokenism," Bishop Jones said afterwards.

But most felt that the communion service, based on Kenyan church liturgy, was an imaginative and exciting start for the ten-yearly conference of 800 archbishops and bishops from the worldwide Anglican Church.

It included "gospel" dance from a Latin American troupe and the Bishop of Steyney, the Right Rev John Sentamu, playing the African tribal "wiseman's" drum.

The service gave a strong indication that the conference organisers, including Dr Carey, are determined to prevent the agenda being taken over by well-organised protest groups, such as the Lesbian and Gay Christian Movement and opponents of women priests and bishops.

In his opening meditation to the conference, Dr Carey called for unity. "There are strong grounds for hoping that we shall go home in three weeks time, greatly strengthened and empowered for God's mission in the world."

But there were fears, he admitted, that "the good ship Anglicana may founder on some divisive issue or other,

whether on the rocks of intolerance and indiscipline or the shoals of fundamentalism and liberalism".

The lesbian and gay Christian pressure groups outnumbered yesterday by hunt opponents, save-our-hospital groups, animal rights campaigners and a group from Catholic Women's Ordination who lobbied the cathedral during the service, which was broadcast live on BBC1.

Afterwards Bishop Knusden, 52, whose husband, a computer scientist, has stayed at home in America, said: "I felt incredibly honoured to be invited to lead the intercessions. To have a woman bishop there was an accurate reflection of the diversity of the Anglican communion."

"I had a feeling of awe because of the place and the context. I kept having to say to myself, 'This really is Canterbury Cathedral, a historic place, the heart of the Anglican Church. This is not just a parish church on a Sunday morning.'"

Delegates will over the next three weeks debate international debt, morality, Christian-Islamic relations and the use of the Bible. There will also be discussion of human rights, the environment, human sexuality, new technology, euthanasia and economic justice. The conference is expected to lead to the setting up of a commission on human sexuality similar to the Eames Commission, chaired by the Archbishop of Armagh, the Most Rev Dr Robin Eames, which paved the way for women priests.

A "spouses' programme" will run in parallel to the conference, where the 600 bishops' wives and four bishops' husbands attending will debate family issues and learn skills such as needlework.

One Australian bishop's wife has requested lessons in aircraft maintenance — but then she does fly her husband around his diocese in the Outback.



Delegates of the Lambeth Conference gathering at Canterbury Cathedral yesterday. The 800 archbishops and bishops include 11 women

Purple pros prepared for a sweaty start

Damian Whitworth on how gym-loving delegates are settling in at Canterbury

A CATCHPHRASE in evangelical circles is "muscular christianity". This is used to describe the uncompromising stance taken by those on the religious Right who have no truck with what they see as liberal pussy-footing around. At the Lambeth Conference in Canterbury the bishops are interpreting the phrase more literally. One could be forgiven for thinking this is a convention for fitness nuts.

The Anglican Church may not be in the best shape but the bishops themselves must be the healthiest bunch ever to congregate in theological history. They have three weeks of intellectual workouts ahead and to stay on their toes they have demanded all the facilities that their hosts, the University of Kent, can offer.

In fact, the university sports centre, used to catering for the rather more relaxed routines of students, has had to jump to it to keep these bishops happy. Normally the centre opens at 9am. For this conference the atten-

dants will be opening the doors at 7.30am to bright-eyed bishops keen to pump iron before tackling the issues of homosexuality in the Church and international debt.

"Some of them wanted to come in early before the morning service so we are opening for them," Clive Roberts, the duty manager, said yesterday. "They have been booking sessions in the weights room, tennis and squash. The Americans and the Australians seem to be the fittest."

The 800 archbishops and bishops have been offered the run of the sports facilities for a flat fee of £20 for the three weeks. Their spouses can also take up the offer and have a separate programme of keep-fit sessions to music as part of their programme.

A cricket match and a golf tourna-

ment have been arranged and yesterday some of the keener golfers took advantage of a free afternoon after the opening communion service at Canterbury Cathedral to practise.

The bishops and spouses, including the Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr George Carey, are all billeted in student accommodation on the campus. Staff at the university said that the wife of one American bishop had commented that their room was "a bit Spartan".

The portable lavatories, however, are splendid with pictures on the walls and piped classical music. After hearing the music drifting across the campus, several bishops have taken delight in showing their wives the origin of the strains of Mozart.

In yesterday's sunshine the campus

thronged with men and women in episcopal purple, a heartening number holding hands. Those of a less energetic bent chatted on the lawns or dozed after the roast beef lunch.

Another intriguing aspect of the conference is that it is firmly in the grip of the Anglican Church's spin-doctors. The conference notes say that bishops are "strongly encouraged" to give interviews only after consultation with the communications department.

In the end, though, these are bishops and will speak when they want to. Stew Wood, Bishop of Michigan, daringly confessed that he was hoping to squeeze in some golf.

Peter Kuthandu Kowa Elbersh, Bishop of Kadugli and Nuba Mountains in Sudan, talked of the important issues, such as the effect of war in his native country, that had to be discussed but he also showed off his four-month-old daughter, Madeleine. "She is my seventh child, we are a big family," he said with a guffaw.

Memory man takes 10 hours to recite Gospels

By CLAUDIA JOSEPH

A MAGISTRATES' clerk has set a world record by reciting all four of the Gospels from memory.

David Bathurst, from Fishbourne, West Sussex, undertook his marathon recitation on Saturday at Boxgrove Priory Church, Chichester. He began just before 9am and finished just before 7pm, beating the deadline he set for himself by half an hour. Taking ten-minute breaks between Gospels, and 30 minutes for lunch, he recited with a relay of prompters, including his wife, Lizzie.

He did not falter once throughout the ten-hour recitation and is now planning to apply for a place in the Guinness Book of Records.

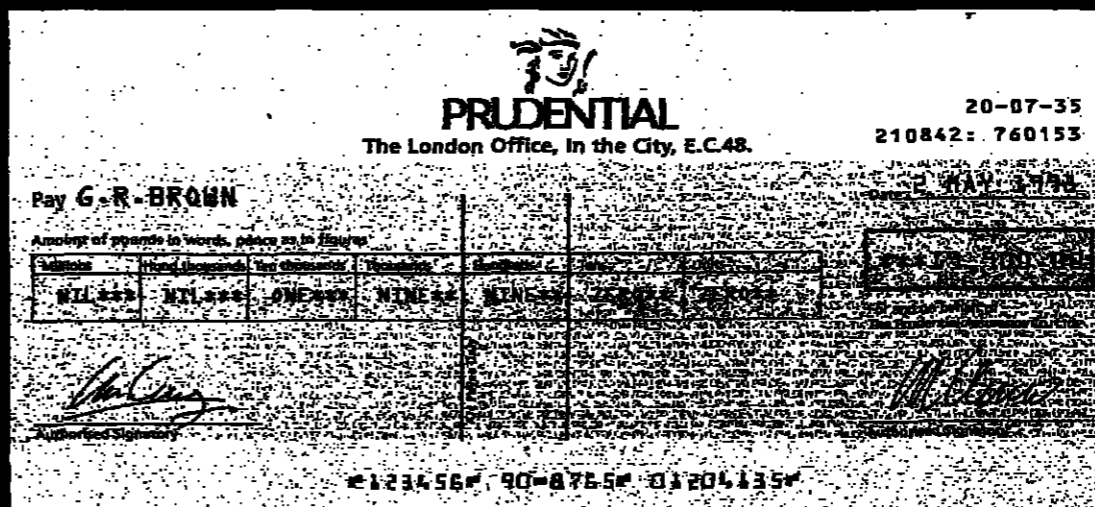
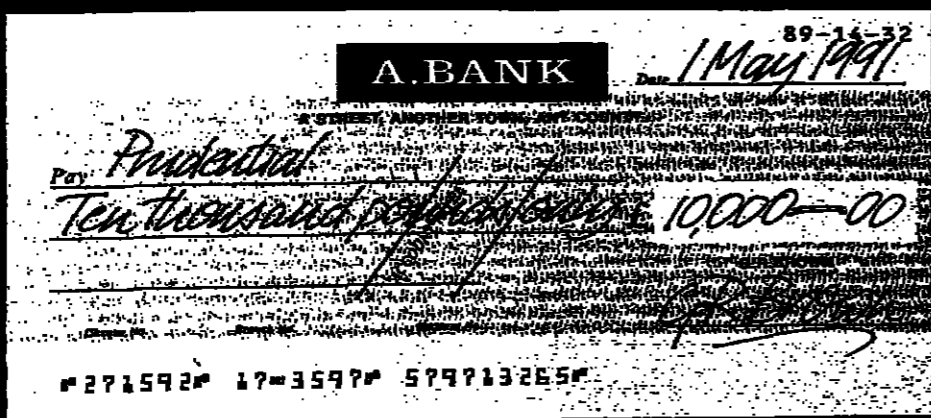
Mr Bathurst began learning the Gospels by heart in 1993 during his daily 15-minute bicycle ride to work. This summer alone he estimates he has spent 240 hours learning St Matthew and revising the other Gospels.

He said: "It was a long day but very successful. It's been extremely worthwhile. It was a new and interesting way of communicating the Gospels, as well as being a personal challenge. It has made my faith more informed and given me lots of new insights into the Gospels."

"My next goal will be to memorise and recite the Acts of the Apostles in time for the Millennium celebrations."

Mr Bathurst has been gifted with a remarkable memory since childhood. As well as having a phenomenal memory for court records and obscure laws, he can also remember every winner of the FA Cup and Wimbledon.

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Armed Forces to get £750m eye in the sky

By MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE EDITOR

THE Army and RAF are to get a spy plane that can spot the enemy from 200 miles away after a decision during the strategic defence review to go ahead with the £750 million Astor programme.

An order for five aircraft fitted with a long-range radar able to plot the movement of enemy tanks and send pictures to ground commanders is expected in the autumn.

The order will give the Services a unique capability that has been considered for more than 14 years. Astor — Airborne Stand-Off Radar — was among dozens of equipment projects examined during the defence review and could have been axed.

However a Ministry of Defence source said yesterday that the spy plane project was "definitely going ahead". Astor fulfils at least two of the defence review's priorities: it has a joint-service role and its intelligence of enemy positions will help to reduce casualties.

The pace and scale of modern military and peacekeeping operations have increased the

importance of real-time, long-range intelligence. The review acknowledged the need for the Services to improve intelligence gathering to reduce reliance on the US.

While American reconnaissance satellites provide high-resolution pictures, ground commanders have to wait for the satellite to pass over the battlefield. US U2 spy planes produce only static images.

The three consortia bidding for the contract propose using business jets to process advanced radar images on board and transmit them to mobile ground stations. Astor will be able to track helicopters as well as tanks and other military vehicles.

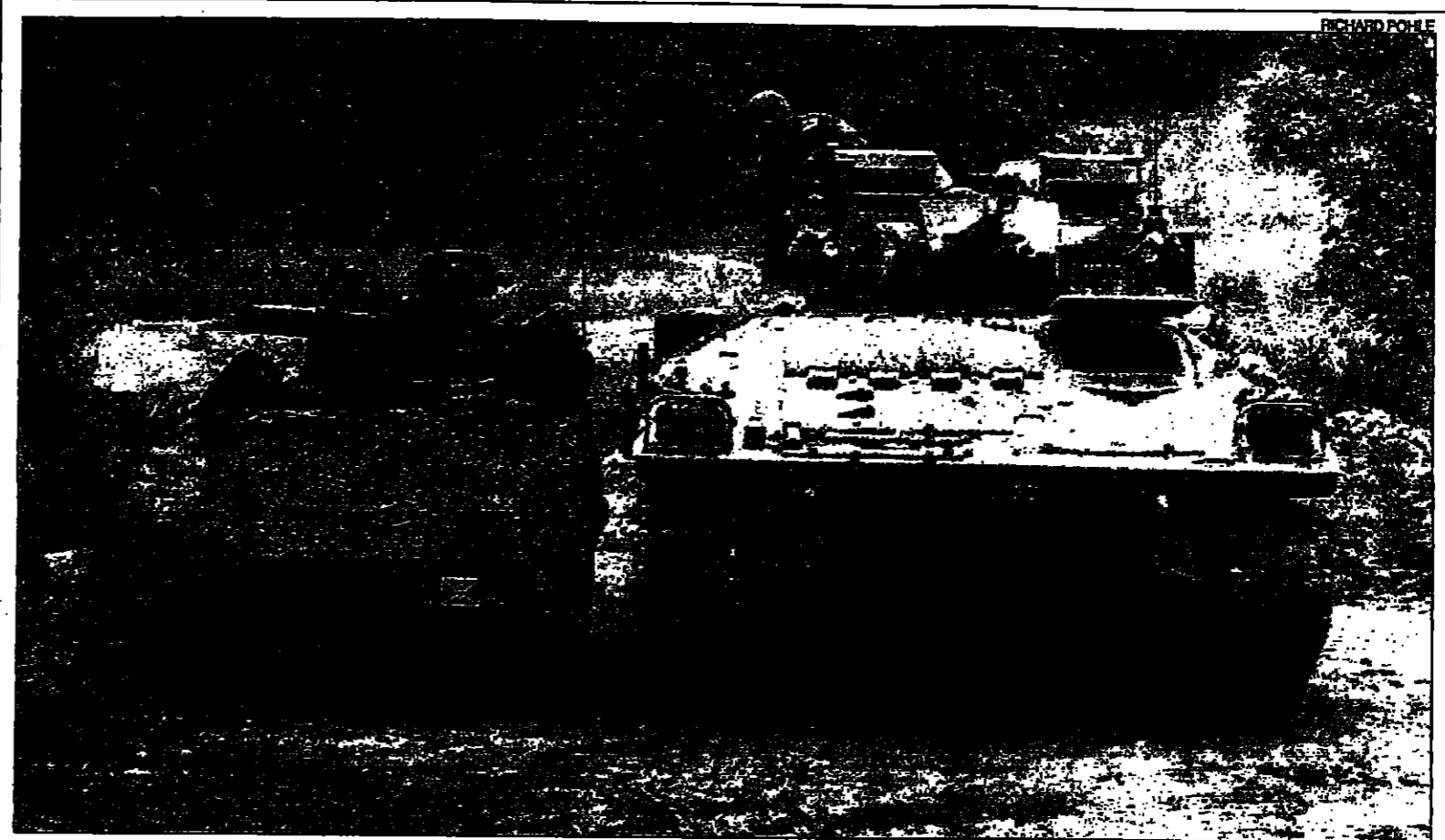
The aircraft will operate at an altitude of about 51,000ft, and would need to be protected by fighters, although they will have their own weapons.

The MoD has had a staff requirement for an airborne stand-off radar since 1993 but the Army and RAF must wait five years for Astor to come into service.

Two of the rival consortia —

the giant American defence company Lockheed Martin, which has teamed up with British companies including Racal and Logica, and Northrop Grumman, another US company that has a partnership with British Aerospace for the Astor programme, — are offering Gulfstream V aircraft as the platform for the radar. The third consortium, the American company Raytheon, which is linked with Hughes of the US and Shorts of Belfast, proposes a Canadian Global Express business jet.

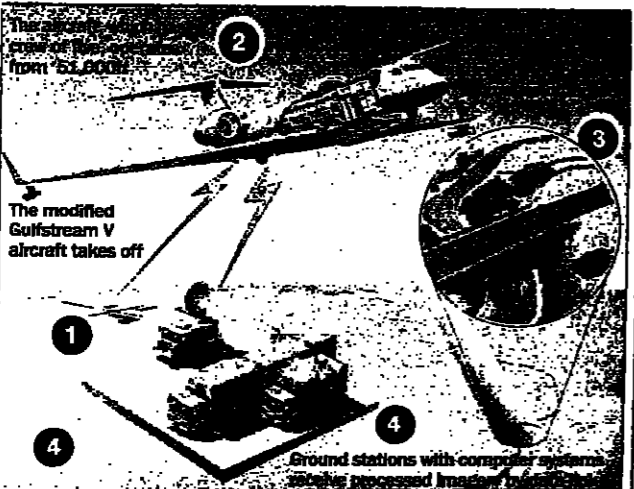
The purchase of five Astor aircraft would complement the £250 million "bugger-off" Phoenix unarmed spy plane, which takes pictures from about 8,000ft overhead. The GEC-Marconi plane acquired its nickname after early prototypes took off and never came back.



A British soldier in a Warrior armoured fighting vehicle leans out to inspect a German Weisel "mini-tank" during an exercise on Salisbury Plain yesterday (Michael Evans writes). Soldiers from The Parachute Regiment tested the Weisel, which can travel at up to 50mph and provides an

armoured mobile platform for a range of weapons systems. It is being considered for use by the British Army. For yesterday's exercise, codenamed Pegasus Anvil, six Weisels supplied by the German Army's 909 Demonstration Company trained with British Warriors. Four of the Weisels were armed

with TOW anti-tank weapons and the other two with 20mm cannons. A spokeswoman for the 5th Airborne Brigade, which was involved in the exercise, said Hercules transport aircraft could carry four Weisels and a Chinook helicopter two. The Paras "loved them", she added.



RAF personnel face random drug tests

By MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE EDITOR

RANDOM drug-testing is to be introduced in the RAF, bringing the Service into line with the Army and Royal Navy, John Reid, the Armed Forces Minister, is to announce today. The move is intended to underline the Government's policy of "zero tolerance" of drug-taking in the Forces.

The random checks will begin in November and the plan is to test 25 per cent of the RAF annually. All ranks up to the Chief of the Air Staff will be obliged to submit to testing, both in the United Kingdom

and abroad. Government chemists will be looking for evidence of six types of drugs: cannabis, cocaine, amphetamines, opiates, barbiturates and LSD. Anyone in the RAF found to have taken drugs will face disciplinary action and is likely to be discharged.

The Army introduced random drug-testing in January 1995. The Royal Navy followed last year. Before agreeing to a programme of drug-testing, the RAF surveyed opinion among personnel: about 80 per cent were in favour.

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It was free and it was fast, but it soon started falling apart

Alan Hamilton reflects on how the M1 has been going downhill since 1959

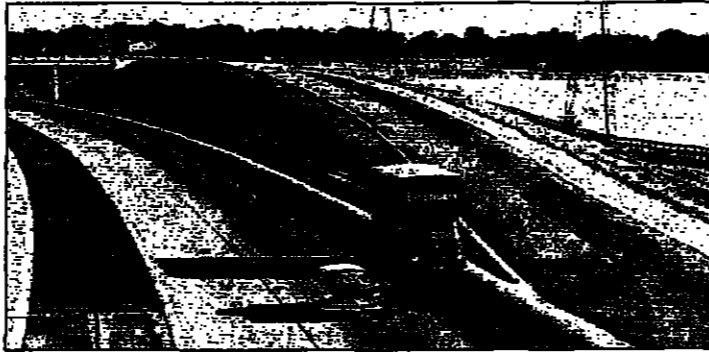
WHEN the first 70-mile section of the M1 from Watford to Rugby opened on November 2, 1959, it was hailed as a new motoring experience.

Forty years ago motoring was a leisure activity and a dual carriageway without traffic lights, roundabouts or speed restrictions tickled the adrenalin of every accelerator jockey frustrated by the growing congestion on roads that already carried 8.5 million vehicles.

The motoring correspondent of the *News Of The World* advised his readers: "If you have an old car, my advice is don't use it on the M1, for the monotony will break your heart." Ernest Marples, the Minis-

ter of Transport, officially opened the first national highway built in Britain this century from a bridge in Northamptonshire. When he saw the first wave of traffic pass under him, he professed himself appalled at the speed it was doing. In its early years the M1 had no speed limit and grass verges for hard shoulders.

Only in recent years has the graffiti "Marples must go" weathered to illegibility on that very bridge south of Watford Gap. The motorist wanted rid of him, not so much because one of the main construction contracts went to a firm with family connections, Marples Ridgway, but because within



The M1 on opening day. "The monotony will break your heart"

three years the M1 began to fall to bits. It had been built at great speed, a mile every nine days, and at the bargain cost of £20 million. It had been designed to last for 20 years without major repair, but it

was crumbling after three. The government admitted there had been "compromises" in the design to save money and get it built quickly. The effect of the compromises included a surface that

cracked because of poor foundations, frequent waterlogging because of bad drainage and a useless emergency telephone system. It was a victim of what was essentially a pre-war design and set much store by cost-benefit analysis.

The word "contraflow" entered the language around 1981, during another severe bout of M1 repairs. But it was hugely popular, and within the first few hours it was recording a traffic flow of 1,500 vehicles per hour, far more than had been anticipated. The AA reported a massive rise in breakdown calls, mainly from overheated engines and empty petrol tanks, and two particular bad driving habits: hogging the outside lane and straddling two lanes at once.

The M1 had been open less than a week when it claimed its first fatal

accident: two lorry drivers died when they collided in fog. Within a month it had claimed its first traffic offence, when a man was fined £5 for stopping on the grass verge to take a photograph.

Surprisingly, in its first six years the M1 was witness to only 140 fatal accidents; experts said they would have expected twice as many on the roads it replaced. But the novelty of the motorway nonetheless encouraged the most reckless driving: six weeks after it opened the a woman became its first motoring offender when she was fined £50 for dangerous driving, having rolled her Mercedes into the other carriageway at 125mph.

The first police radar patrol took up position on the M1 in Buckinghamshire in 1966, and on their first day fingered six motorists exceeding 80 mph. The M1, which finally

reached Leeds in 1977, was not Britain's first motorway; that honour belongs to the 8½ miles of the Preston bypass, now a tiny segment of the M6, opened in 1958 by Harold Macmillan.

The first service station opened at Newport Pagnell in 1960, selling hot dogs and hamburgers at 2/ (10p) and a large fillet steak at 12/6 (72p). The motoring correspondent of *The Times* reported: "Most of the customers seemed to be the first sight of the snack bar, so much smarter than the usual transport pull-up."

We have come a long way since then, but it has not been all progress. We may drive in better cars, but the motorways are overloaded, the fast-lane-hoggers are still with us — and they are still doing hamburgers at Newport Pagnell.

Families of road victims appalled by clean-up plan

By ARTHUR LEATHLEY, TRANSPORT CORRESPONDENT

FAMILIES of road crash victims have joined safety experts and private firms in protest at government plans to offer cash incentives to clear up accident wreckage within 30 minutes.

Ministers will soon unveil plans to reward private companies if they clear busy trunk roads within half an hour of an accident. Firms bidding for road building projects will be expected to install high-technology camera equipment to locate crash sites within seconds and to pay for breakdown vehicles to stay near accident blackspots.

But relatives of accident victims warned that speeding up clearances would make police investigations less thorough and prosecutions for serious driving offences less likely to succeed.

Pip Finucane, of the road traffic victims' charity RoadPeace, said police did not spend enough time investigating serious accidents, and that the new rules would make it even less likely that crash scenes were examined properly.

"There is already pressure on the police to restore traffic flow as soon as possible. For ministers to... suggest something that will greatly increase that pressure is not only unacceptable, it is a clear message about the government's lack of commitment to taking road death and injury seriously," she said.

Ms Finucane was supported by Nick Stilwell, a road safety engineer.

"You can tell at the scene whether a light blub was illuminated before impact. Once everything has been swept away, it is much more difficult to piece together exactly what happened," he said.

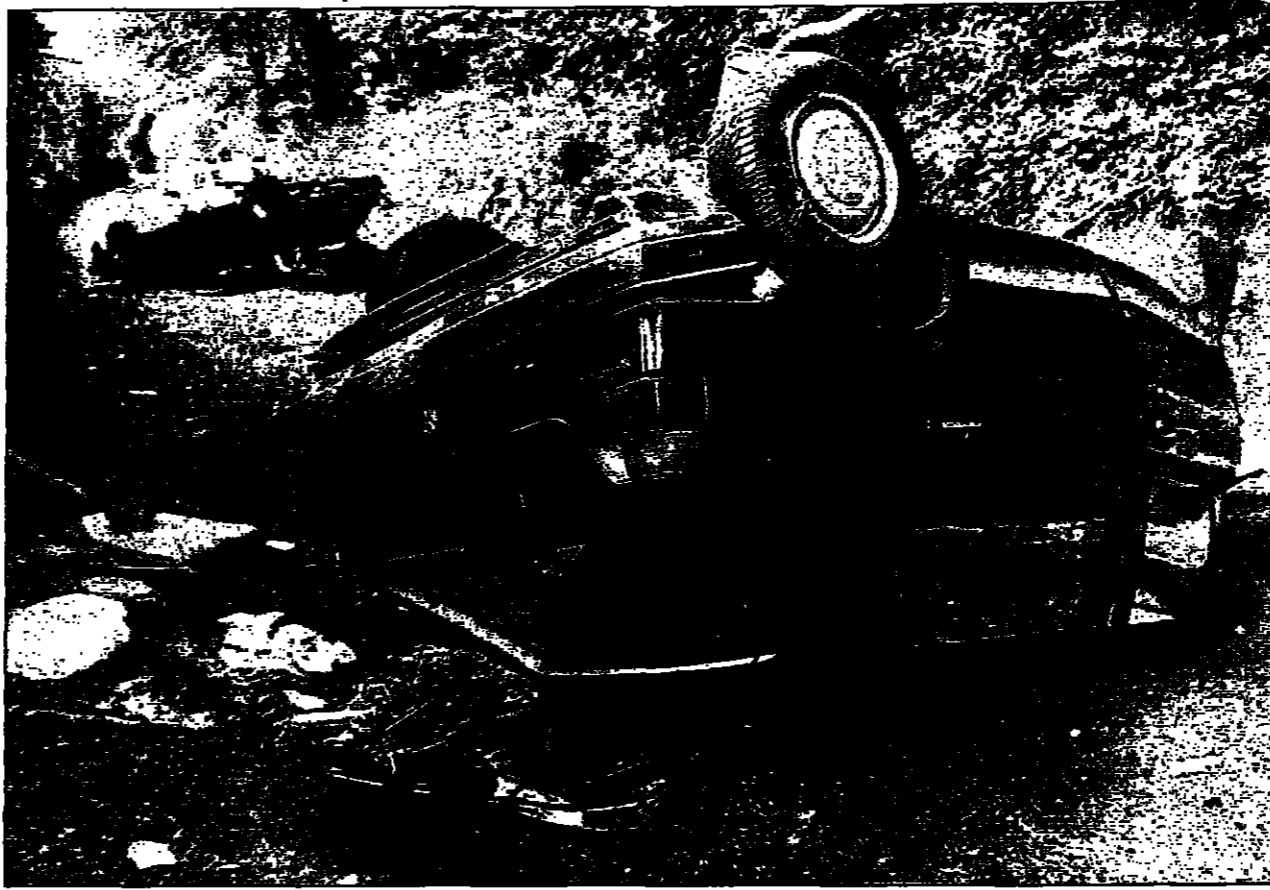
"If an accident is fatal the police will take a long time, but sometimes the injuries can be very serious and be the subject of long legal action and details about the accident are very important. There is a risk that once you have financial incentives, it puts pressure on people to move too quickly."

Contractors bidding to build and operate major new roads and extend motorways will be paid for improving safety and

encouraging bus and lorry traffic. They will be penalised for closing roads during peak periods and for when traffic is blocked for long periods after an accident.

The penalty system is similar to that already operated on the railways, where Railtrack, the track and signalling company, forfeits payments if lines are closed, irrespective of the cause. A spokesman for the Civil Engineering Contractors Association supported the concerns over road safety. "We want safety to be paramount and 30 minutes is a very short period in which to clear up even a minor accident. It is an interesting step to help improve traffic flow but we have to think of the people involved in the accident."

A spokesman for the Highways Agency, which will oversee the new contracts, said: "We would not compromise safety but our obligation is to keep traffic moving. We work very closely with the police and it is their role to insist if longer time is needed to investigate. We would never ignore that request."



Henry Lucy's VW Golf lies overturned in the foreground after the high-speed collision

'Racing' Porsches kill pensioner

TWO company executives were under arrest last night on suspicion of causing death by dangerous driving as they raced their Porsche cars along a narrow country road.

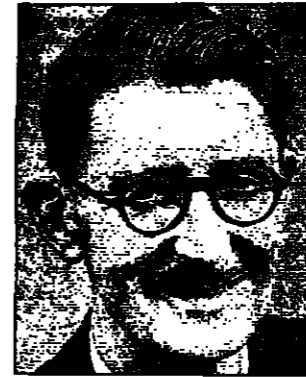
Henry Lucy, 82, died at the scene of the high-speed impact in which his Volkswagen Golf was tossed

into the air by one of the Porsche 911s, which also overturned. The two Porsche drivers had just left the Porsche Club of Great Britain's national weekend at Highclere Castle, Berkshire, when the accident happened on Saturday evening. Both escaped serious injury and were arrested and taken to Newbury Police Station.

Police were understood to have received calls from other drivers complaining about "two Porsches racing each other" along the narrow road at Winterborne, near New-

bury, just before the impact took place. Mr Lucy, from Wootton, Abingdon, was driving south with his wife, Claude, when they were confronted by the Porsches.

A witness said: "There was a hell of an impact — they must have been going very fast. The old man literally died to death trapped upside down in the wreckage and his wife was very badly injured as well. The Porsches were very smart cars but one was completely devastated. It is incredible that the drivers got out alive."



Henry Lucy: died in crash with two Porsches

Scientist dies at 74 swimming round isle

By A CORRESPONDENT

A SCIENTIST who became the first person to swim around the Channel Island of Sark has died trying to repeat the feat at the age of 74.

Sir James Lighthill was found in rough seas off the island's rocky coast more than nine hours after he stepped into the waves for the nine-mile swim. Inspector Paul Gill of Guernsey Police said: "He had apparently swum around the island six times over the years, but this time he didn't make it. The tides are pretty big around Sark and there are some ferocious currents."

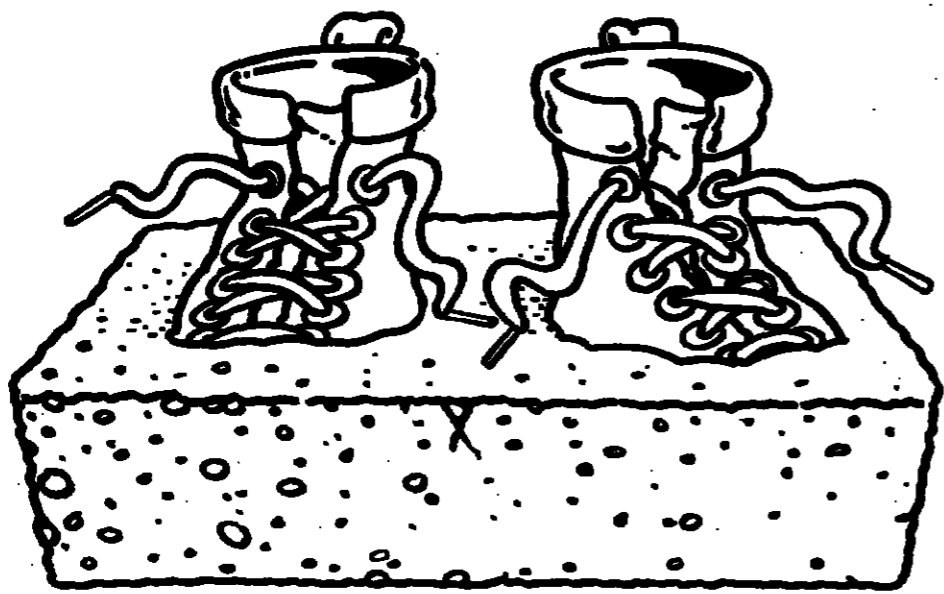
Sir James, from Cambridge, helped to advance the science of aerodynamics during the Second World War, and was director of the Royal Aircraft Establishment from 1959 to 1964. One of his main interests was fluid dynamics — the science of the movement of water — and he was reported to have used his expertise to calculate the best way to tackle the Sark swim in 1973.

Before his death, he was staying at a hotel on Sark with his wife of 33 years, Nancy, and their son. He had nearly completed his swim around the island when people on the shore realised he had stopped swimming and alerted someone with a boat.

Inspector Gill said: "We don't know at this stage what the cause of death was. He may have drowned, but he could have had a heart attack or hypothermia."

Obituary, page 23

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World microlight pilot on course

By ANNIE FLURY

MICROLIGHT pilot Brian Milton is hoping to complete his epic round-the-world flight today and secure himself a place in the record books.

The 55-year-old financial journalist is expecting to become the first microlight pilot to circumnavigate the world. He is also on track to beat the 175-day record, set in 1924, for a round-the-world flight in an open-cockpit, single-engine aircraft.

Mr Milton, from Bethnal Green, East London, was due to end his global journey at White Waltham Aerodrome, near Maidenhead, Berkshire, this afternoon. However, bad weather yesterday

forced him to abandon his plans to fly from the Orkney Islands to Liverpool. He stayed overnight near Aberdeen in the hope that better weather today would enable him to continue.

Last night Mr Milton's spokeswoman, Alison Harper, said: "It's impossible to say now whether he will be able to make it by tomorrow afternoon. Everything depends on the weather."

The father of two took off from Brooklands, Surrey, in March and finally touched down after flying more than 22,000 miles around the world at Lambholm in the Orkney Islands on Saturday night.

One record he won't be beating is the

fictional one set by Phileas Fogg in Jules Verne's novel *Round the World in 80 Days*. Mr Milton's total flight time, including days lost because of bad weather and engine problems, also amounted to exactly 80 days. But red tape led to frustrating hold-ups as he tried to persuade bureaucratic officials to allow him to cross Japan, China, Russia and Greenland, making it 117 days since he first took off.

"It's the first microlight flight around the world, which I'm very proud of. Doing it in 80 days would have been the icing on the cake," he said. However, he still plans to copy Fogg's celebratory drink at the Reform Club.

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BBC gives top priority to pop radio station

The corporation wants to attract new listeners, Raymond Snoddy reports

THE BBC will tell its radio staff this week that Radio 1 and Radio 5 Live will receive the lion's share of new money for marketing and new programming initiatives this year.

The corporation said yesterday that Radio 3 and Radio 4 were being downgraded as "nonsense" and that core budgets would not be affected. The Sunday Times had reported that Radio 3 would be last in the pecking order, Radio 4 second to last. A BBC spokeswoman said: "All radio networks are being asked to deliver efficiency savings which will amount to less than £5 million. This sum will be reinvested in talent and live events across all five networks. All the networks are equally important and their budget ratios remain the same."

But BBC executives did not deny that, in a list of priorities for marketing and programme initiatives, Radio 1 came top, Radio 5 Live came second, Radio 2 third, Radio 4 fourth and Radio 3 last. In the last financial year, the marketing priority was given to Radio 4 to promote changes to the schedule.

The moves are "part of the normal annual review of radio strategy", the BBC said.

The priority for Radio 1 and Radio 5 Live has been set in the hope of reaching new audi-

ences that, the BBC fears, may not be getting their fair share from the licence fee. Embarrassingly for the corporation, the move will coincide with BBC attempts to argue for an increase in the licence fee; its case would normally be strongly supported by traditional listeners to Radio 4 and Radio 3.

Matthew Bannister, Director of BBC Radio since 1996, who from 1993 until February this year was Controller of

Radio 1, said yesterday that the efficiency savings that all networks were being asked to achieve would amount to less than £5 million out of a total programming spend of £180 million. However, Radio 5 Live is not part of the radio budget — the network is funded out of BBC News. Because the budgets of Radios 3 and 4 are disproportionately high — £153 million a year, together, out of the total radio budget of £288 million, including Radio

5 Live — they are likely to suffer more from any across-the-board efficiency drives.

BBC executives said privately that more complex features and documentaries could be at risk as a result of the new priorities. One said yesterday: "This is an attack on quality radio by people who do not understand the BBC, do not understand quality radio, and care even less."

Although the BBC was keen to play down the significance of the planned changes yesterday, there is concern that they represent a break from the past and that programmes are increasingly being assessed on a cost-per-thousand listener basis. Radio 3 reaches about 2.5 million listeners each week, yet costs £63 million a year. Radio 1 has a reach of around 11 million and costs £38 million. The disparity is accounted for by factors such as the cost of live orchestras.

The marketing priorities for Radios 1 and 5 Live grow out of a study conducted some years ago which found that the BBC was "super-serving" the middle classes, and more recent detailed research on the interests of the audience.

The BBC believes that the viability of the licence fee will depend on convincing the entire population that it provides value-for-money.

FUNDING TO THE TUNE OF MILLIONS

Radio 1 needs to attract more young women listeners if it is to fight off competition, Sir John Birt, Director-General of the BBC, believes (Carole Midgley writes). The corporation's second priority for new audiences is Radio 5 Live, which has many more male than female listeners. The station, which broadcasts news and sport, recently swept the board at the Sony Radio Awards. In the latest financial year, Radio 5 Live had a budget of £54m, Radio 4 £90m, Radio 3 £63m and Radio 2 £43m. Radio 1 had the lowest budget at £38m. Extra money may now be spent on covering more live pop concerts for Radio 1, and more exclusive sessions with bands.

Last week at the launch of the BBC's annual report, Sir John said: "Radio 1 is doing fantastically well. It has the best part of 50 per cent reach of the 15-35 year age group. It does especially well in reaching young men but it is not attracting nearly as many young women. So... this is an opportunity to say 'how do we appeal to young women?'"

Radio 3 could also be facing a review when a Controller is appointed to replace the departing Nicholas Kenyon. Industry experts say the choice of controller will indicate whether the BBC intends to take classical music seriously.



Gail Reubuck: her husband is close to Tony Blair

Crony row halts appointment of Blair's friend

By Andrew Pierce, Political Correspondent

THE millionaire wife of one of the Prime Minister's closest advisers has lost the race to become vice-chairman of the BBC after a row over cronyism.

Gail Reubuck, the chairman of Random House publishing, whose husband Philip Gould is a member of Tony Blair's inner circle, has been passed over for the £17,000 a year part-time job in favour of a new Labour life peer.

Barbara Young, the head of English Nature an environmental quango, will be confirmed in the post on Tuesday. She is a much less controversial choice than Ms Reubuck. While she is on friendly terms with Gordon Brown, the Chancellor, she is not closely associated with New Labour in the same way as Ms Reubuck.

The appointment will be announced by Chris Smith, the Culture Secretary, after it is rubber stamped at Tuesday's meeting of the Privy Council. Her name is the only one being put forward by Mr Smith.

Baroness Young, who has not worked in the media, has served on BBC advisory panels. She is on the committee which monitors the agricultural storylines in The Archers. She was a key figure in

the successful battle last year to stop the BBC dropping Farming Today on Radio 4.

The move to find a replacement for Lord Cocks, the former Labour chief whip who is the outgoing vice chairman, has been dogged by difficulties. Lord Putnam, the Oscar winning film director, withdrew from the shortlist to the dismay of many BBC executives who thought he was the only one with the stature to stand up to Sir John Birt, the director general.

The prospect of Ms Reubuck securing the post prompted angry clashes in the Commons over "cronyism" between William Hague and Tony Blair. Ms Reubuck's husband is a close friend of Mr Blair and Peter Mandelson, the Minister Without Portfolio.

If Ms Reubuck, one of the highest paid people in British publishing, had secured the job it would have provoked another furious row over "Tony's cronies" with the Opposition.

A Department of Culture spokesman declined to say whether Ms Reubuck withdrew or was beaten on ability by Baroness Young, adding: "The correct procedures were followed throughout."

Literary festival carries on Sid's comic tradition

By Paul Wilkinson

A LITERARY festival is devoting two nights to the life and works of Sid James.

In September, the Ilkley Literary Festival in West Yorkshire will attempt to assess the comic actor's impact on British culture and film with a one-man show by the Charivari Theatre Company. The tragicomic monologue is being developed by a local writer, Boris Howarth, for his friend Mike Bettison, who looks strikingly like James. An inflatable model of James's Carry On co-star Barbara Windsor makes an appearance.

David Porter, the festival director, said: "I don't know whether we are trying to elevate him to some high position as an icon of 20th-century comic drama — I think he might already be there to some people — but it is a fascinating project to examine the private life behind the public one."

"The play attempts to find out what makes him tick. It will try to see if there was anything more behind the face and the laugh, which is what most people will remember him for."

James, the son of a music hall couple, was born in South Africa in 1913. He won his craggy, lived-in face in his early days, working as a boxer, a stevedore and coal-heaver. During the war he served in entertainments and also with an anti-tank unit in the Middle East. In 1946 he



James: show examines the comic actor's life

arrived in Britain and joined a repertory company. He won supporting film roles, and in 1956 began the radio, and later television, partnership with Tony Hancock that secured his reputation. Then came the Carry On series and television situation comedies, culminating in Bless This House, which achieved viewing figures of 12 million.

In 1976 he died after collapsing from a heart attack on stage at the Empire Theatre in Sunderland.

A recent biography suggested that his real life was not much different to the character he frequently played. Cliff Goodwin's book portrayed James as a drinking, gambling rogue.

Ellen Thorpe, of the Ilkley-based Charivari company, said: "His life encompasses the defects of all our different personalities and many of our highest ambitions."



McDonald: success has sunk the Beastie Boys

TV cruise singer sails to the top

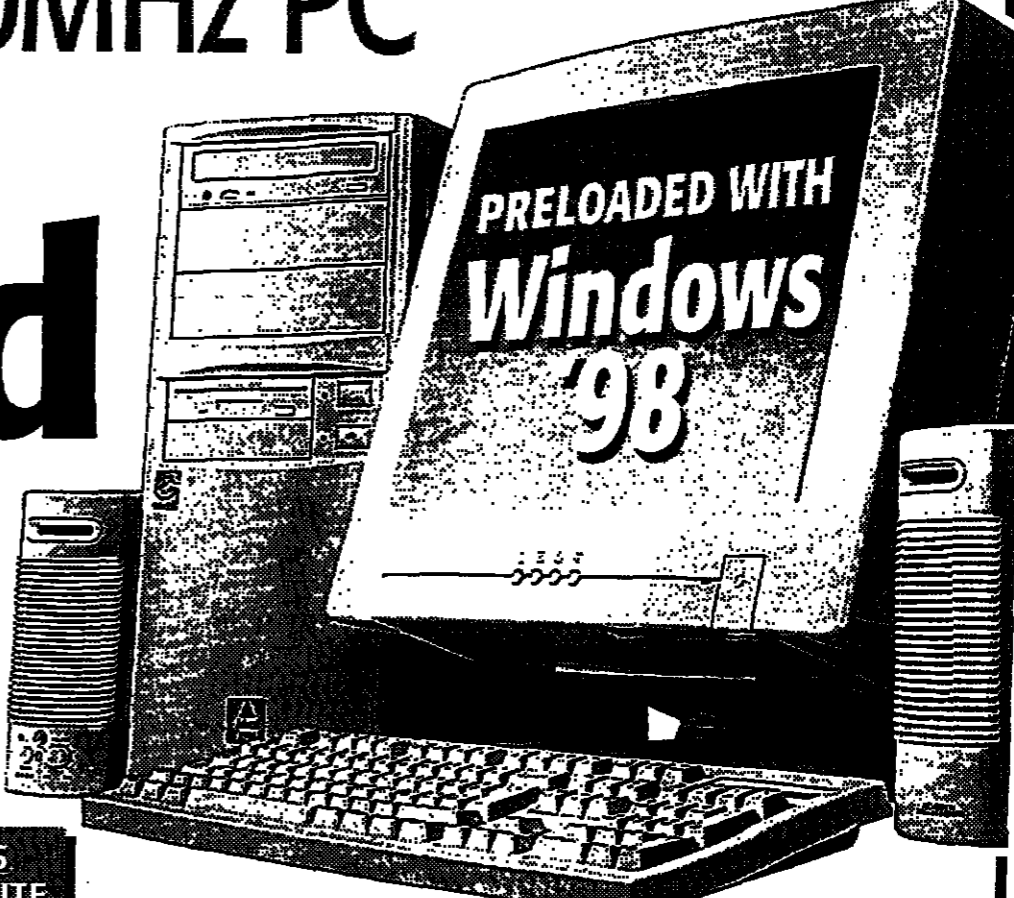
A SINGER who found fame on a fly-on-the-wall TV documentary was delighted yesterday after her album of popular songs ousted the Beastie Boys' Hello Nasty from the top of the album charts.

Jane McDonald, 32, was a regular on the BBC1 series The Cruise, entertaining liner passengers. She said: "I keep thinking, 'Flipping heck, it can't get much better than this'. I can't believe I've been recognised as a singer, because The Cruise really didn't make me sound too good."

spent 10 years working her way around the club circuit, recorded the album at the Abbey Road studio in London, and is performing a weekly show in Blackpool. A UK tour later in the year will include the London Palladium. Her marriage in May was featured by BBC1 earlier this month in The Cruise: Tying The Knot.

The album, Jane McDonald, is unashamedly popular, with cover versions of well-loved songs as well as a song of her own. She said: "People have been saying, 'It's nice to hear a tune again, it's lovely to hear a singer'."

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Tidal wave toll approaches 2,000

Rescuers are still counting the dead in one of Papua New Guinea's worst disasters, Roger Maynard writes

AUSTRALIA last night was spearheading an international relief operation to the stricken northwest coast of Papua New Guinea, where whole villages have been washed away and a tranquil lagoon left littered with the bodies of some of the 2,000 people feared dead in what has been reported as one of the country's worst natural disasters.

Rescuers in West Sepik province, where a 30ft tidal wave set off by two earthquakes destroyed schools and mission stations and devastated dozens of villages, say resources have been stretched to their limit and supplies are only just beginning to trickle through. Among them will be medicine, engineering equipment and dozens of army and air force medical personnel on board four Hercules transport aircraft that left Sydney and Townsville for the province last night.

Witnesses said the wall of water sounded like the roar of jet engines as it surged towards seven villages on a spit of land between the sea and Sissano lagoon.

Edie Michael, a secretary with an Aitape forestry company, had just begun preparing an evening meal for her family in central Aitape when the earthquakes hit. About half an hour later, they heard the approaching wave. "It sounded like warplanes were coming when we looked out to the sea we could see this big wave coming and it was like a big mountain," she said.

As relatives began to bury their dead last night, bereaved families were forced to dig makeshift graves in the rubble of their homes. The dead had to be covered with straw matting as there were not enough coffins.

Television pictures showed bodies washed up on the sand and rescuers said hundreds more in the sea were decomposing in the heat. Sister Francois of the Aitape Catholic Mission said: "The dogs are starting to eat the bodies - it is really bad."

Bill Skate, the Prime Minister, was hearing for the region, 350 miles northwest of Port Moresby, the capital, where the Government is co-ordinating relief efforts. Three helicopters ferried the dead and injured to Aitape, where relatives waited for news. Last night the Australian Defence Force provisionally estimated that at least 6,000 people had been made homeless by the tidal wave and reports suggested it was one of the worst natural disasters Papua New Guinea had known.

"We had no choice but to run for our lives," said Paul Saroya, one of the survivors,

on Australian television. "We just heard a lot of banging and crashing and saw the sea rising up and moving towards the village."

Robert Parer, a businessman from Aitape who was taking part in the relief operation, said most victims were tossed around and thrown into the lagoon with their flimsy homes. The lagoon was littered with bloated bodies, building materials, and vegetation swept into the normally tranquil stretch of water. "There are bodies on the beach starting to decompose. There are bodies in the lagoon," said Mr Parer.

Jerry Apuan, a fisherman from Aitape, said he had been unable to count the bodies in the water as he took his dinghy through the sea yesterday. "In one place, there were so many bodies together I had to move the boat slowly to pass through them," he said.

Dr Jack Ryan, a seismologist, said there had been little time to warn villagers of the impending wave, known as a tsunami, which was caused by two earthquakes, the first registering seven on the Richter scale, the second following about 20 seconds later. "It was

When we looked out to sea it was like a big mountain

too close to the coast to alert anyone in time," he said. So many children in the area were killed that the authorities decided to close the schools in some villages because of the lack of pupils. Rescuers feared that those villagers who survived and were taken by their neighbours to higher land in the bush might die from lack of treatment if not found quickly.

Memo Swier, the officer in charge of the Raihu Health Centre in Aitape, described the situation as terrible, but said he feared they had seen only the tip of the iceberg. "We're running out of antibiotics, we're running out of organic drip material, we need blood banks, we need surgeons to operate on all these people," he said. One officer said: "It must be terrible, whole communities have been simply wiped out."

Many survivors were injured, mostly suffering broken bones, as their beach homes built on stilts of flimsy bush materials were torn into fragments. In the village of Warapu alone, 500 people died, officials said. At Sissano village, 41 were confirmed dead, although officials said the toll would rise, as in the villages of Arop, Malol, Teles, Ili and Pera Nambis.

The wave uprooted trees, destroyed roads, bridges, government buildings and a Catholic mission station and church, leaving a thick layer of sand over the top.



A villager weeps amid the ruins of his home, which was devastated, like many others in West Sepik province, when the tidal wave swept in

'I called out to anyone who was alive'

FROM ASSOCIATED PRESS IN AITAPE

LUSIEN ROMME fled in terror before the giant wave which he said was as tall as the coconut trees around his home in Arop on Papua New Guinea's north coast.

The 30ft wall of water smashed his firmly built house, swept away his entire village and drowned his wife. The force of the wave hurled him into a coconut tree and then into the lagoon behind the village.

Speaking yesterday from his hospital bed, Mr Romme recalled feeling the offshore earthquake that triggered the tsunami. He felt three shakes then saw "the sea rising up and coming towards me".

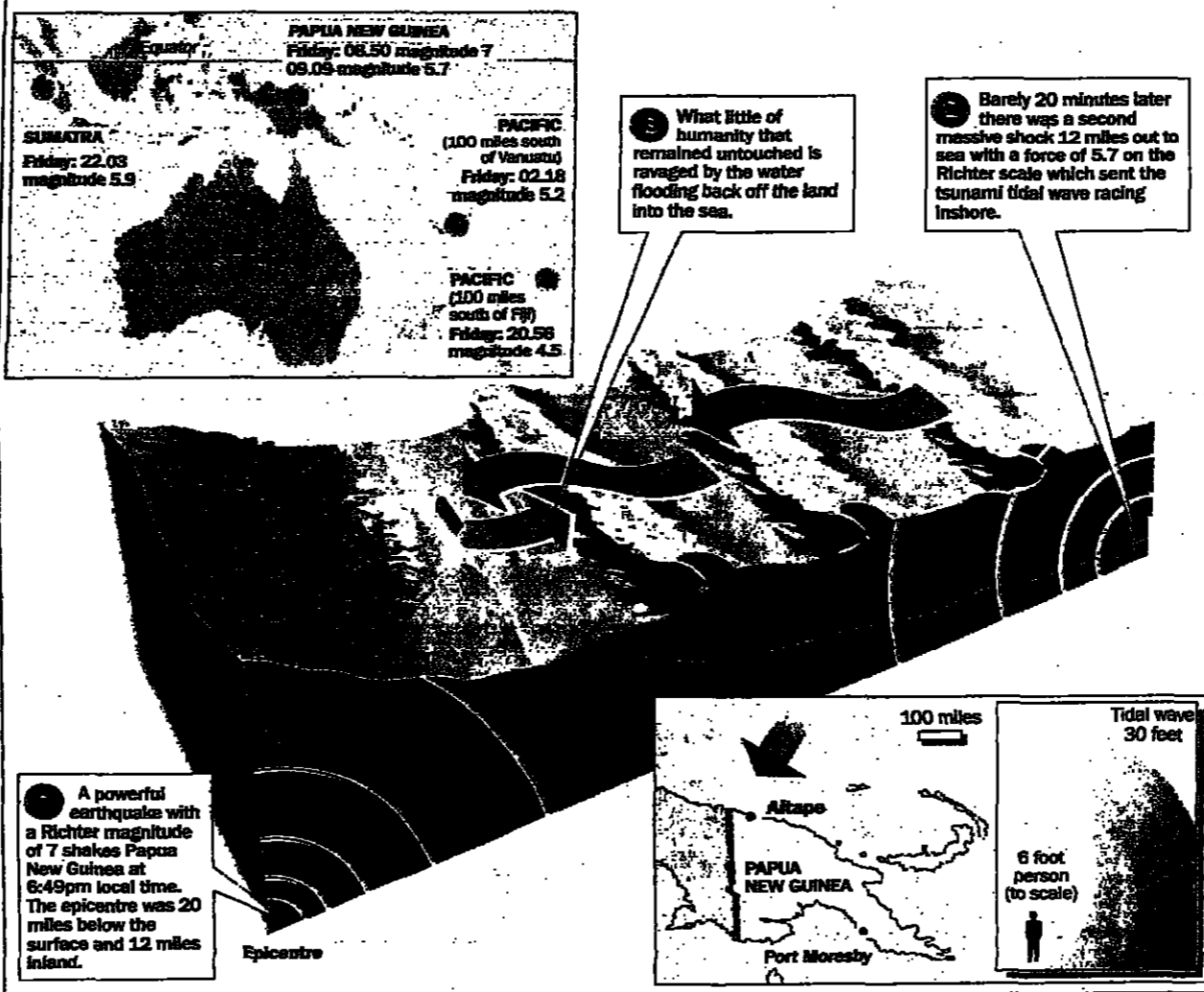
He ran, shouting to fellow villagers to save themselves, and called to his wife, Monica, to search for their six-year-old daughter, Martina.

Before he could find his daughter, he was struck by the wave and the debris of his house and hurled into Sissano Lagoon. Fortunately, he surfaced near a boat.

"I called out for help," Mr Romme said. "I called for anyone who was alive. Other people got in the boat. It all happened in a flash."

Later he learnt that his daughter had survived, but his wife had drowned.

HOW DISASTER STRUCK PAPUA NEW GUINEA



Walls of death reach 450mph

By CHRIS BROADHURST

THE 30ft tsunami - from the Japanese for giant wave - that hit Papua New Guinea ranks among the worst of the 20th century.

Tsunamis can frequently be strong enough to cross entire oceans and will devastate all islands and coastal regions in their path. They can reach speeds of up to 450 miles an hour; as they reach coastlines, they slow in velocity but can rise in height to around 30ft in as little as ten minutes.

The most destructive struck Agadir in Morocco on February 29, 1960, killing 12,000 people.

On August 17, 1976, about 5,000 perished when a tsunami hit the Philippines. An earthquake off the coast of Chile on May 22, 1960, measuring 8.6 on the Richter scale, sent a tsunami across the Pacific which caused 5,000 deaths as, 15 hours later, it struck Hawaii and northern Japan, where it destroyed 1,600 buildings.

With its vast coastal population living astride two tectonic plates, Japan is particularly vulnerable. On March

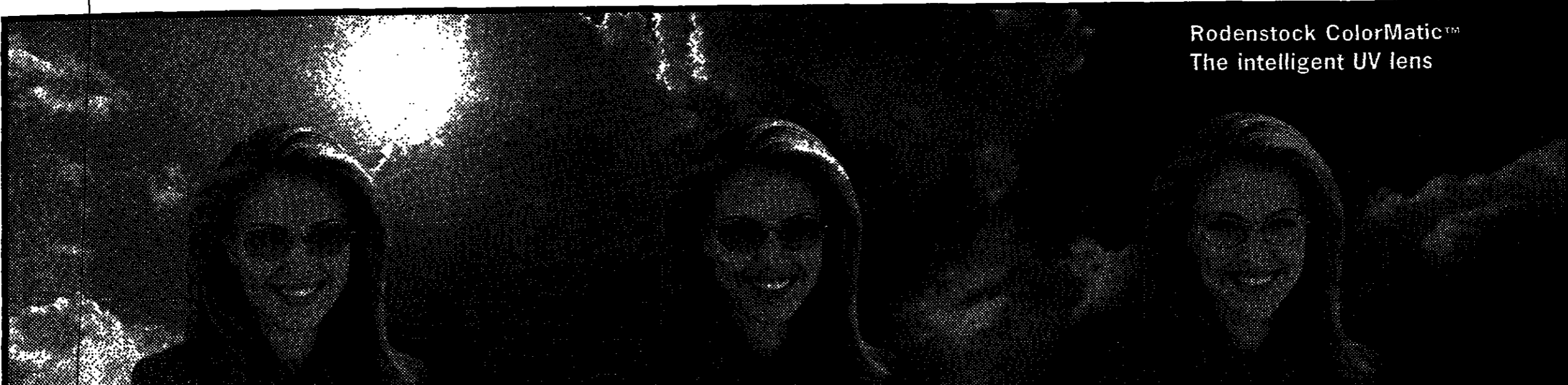
3, 1933, an earthquake measuring 8.3 caused a tsunami that killed 3,008 people in northern Japan.

On December 7, 1944, another tsunami, caused by an earthquake measuring 7.2, struck the island of Shikoku in southwestern Japan, killing 1,300 people.

The most destructive on record, in which more than 100,000 people were killed, also happened in Japan in 1703 at Awa. At the end of the last century, the Sanriku tsunami hit northern Japan on June 15, 1886, and killed an estimated 27,000 people.

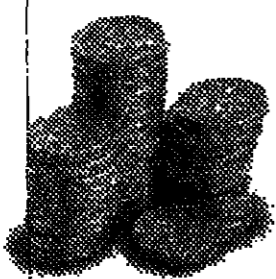
Tsunamis are caused by earthquakes or volcanic eruptions taking place about 30 miles beneath the ocean floor. The tsunami that hit Papua New Guinea came after an undersea earthquake measuring seven on the Richter scale.

Underwater volcanic explosions can also cause tsunamis. On August 26, 1883, the island of Krakatau, off Java, was obliterated by 95ft waves after an underwater volcanic eruption. More than 36,000 people were killed.



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**Edmundo: speeding
Footballer
charged
over road
killings**

FROM GABRIELLA GAMINI
IN RIO DE JANEIRO

THE Brazilian footballer Edmundo has been ordered to pay \$600,000 (£377,000) in compensation to the family of a 25-year-old university student killed in a car accident which the football star is accused of causing.

Three people died on December 2, 1995 when Edmundo Alves de Souza ploughed his four-wheel drive Cherokee into a Fiat Uno while driving at 100 mph along a busy road that runs around Rio's central lagoon. However, judicial hearings against him were delayed until after the Brazil team returned from the World Cup in France.

Friday's hearing, presided over by Judge Ivan Curry, which ended with the compensation order, was the first part of a trial which will resume on July 31 and in which Edmundo will face a manslaughter charge.

If convicted he could face up to 25 years in prison for causing the death of two young women and the 23-year-old man, all of whom were in the car which was in collision with Edmundo's vehicle.

**Lewinsky
was 'born
stalker'
say agents**

FROM BRONWEN MADDOX IN WASHINGTON

AMERICAN Secret Service agents remember Monica Lewinsky as a "born stalker" who was infatuated with President Clinton, the *New York Post* said yesterday, quoting a service lawyer.

The former White House trainee was a "naive, daft" groupie who was attracted to anyone with power and who drove the Secret Service "nuts" by hanging around the corridors of power, said Warren Dennis, according to the *Post*.

Mr Dennis is acting for the Secret Service agents who today begin their first full week of evidence in front of Kenneth Starr, the independent prosecutor, and a grand jury about the relationship between Ms Lewinsky and Mr Clinton. The White House lost its legal battle to bar their evidence.

Although polls show the public is tired of the Lewinsky saga, it is equally clear that Americans are appalled at the idea that the ruling might increase the risk of an assassination by encouraging a President to keep his bodyguards at a distance.

At least four officers, including Larry Cockell, the head of Mr Clinton's security detail, are due to be called to give evidence. Mr Starr could call another two dozen officers to find out whether the President lied about a sexual affair or — more damagingly — urged Ms

Lewinsky to lie. However, according to several reports, none of the agents claims to have seen Ms Lewinsky and Mr Clinton in an embarrassing encounter. A *Newsweek* investigation, published today, says that at least two Secret Service officers have told lawyers for the Justice Department that they saw Mr Clinton alone with Ms Lewinsky, "though not in an embarrassing situation".

It is possible that the agents' evidence could even damage Mr Starr's case. According to the *New York Post* account, officers are ready to elaborate the White House view that she, not the President, was the pursuer. "She'd come up to you and start a conversation," Mr Dennis said. "It was as if she wanted to create a kind of intimacy with anyone who had any kind of power or access, not in a cruel or conniving way, but in a naive, daft way."

□ Fresh appearance: Paula Jones, whose legal action triggered the investigations that still enmesh the White House, had the bumps in her nose removed by cosmetic surgery last week, according to reports yesterday. She has been preoccupied with the shape of her nose for years, prone to interrupting discussion of her case to ask reporters and advisers whether she should have it altered.



Israeli police search a Palestinian van containing "dangerous substances" which were for use in a car bomb

Car 'fireball' sparks Israeli fears

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER
IN JERUSALEM

A CAR bomb failed to go off in crowded central Jerusalem yesterday, only hours before last-ditch talks aimed at reviving the moribund Middle East peace process were due to open in a Tel Aviv hotel.

An unusual court gagging order preventing reporting of the "dangerous substances" in the bomb — which malfunctioned, turning the van's driver

into a human fireball — led to speculation over the type of chemicals used in the ingredients. One onlooker thought they were a form of gas designed to maximise blast and fire damage rather than any form of chemical weaponry.

The news blackout ordered by the police — which included a ban on revealing the identity of the bomber, who was taken to hospital with multiple burns — led to rumours that the first

Islamic attack using chemical weapons had been averted. "If this is what peace brings, I think I would prefer war," said one shopper.

After the van burst into flames on Jaffa Road, buildings over a quarter of a mile were evacuated and police told thousands of onlookers to take cover.

Israeli officials were quick to blame Hamas, the Islamic Resistance Movement, linking the bomb attempt and the attempt to kick-start peace negotiations.

**NEWS IN
BRIEF**

Monsoon makes 5m homeless

Dhaka: More than 5 million people were made homeless in Bangladesh at the weekend as tropical floods which swept away huts, rice fields and road bridges (Ahmed Fazi writes).

The death toll over the past four days has risen to 70, with tens of thousands of people remaining stranded in submerged villages and towns.

Sailor 'found'

Paris: A body believed to be that of Eric Tabary, the French yachtsman lost at sea over a month ago, was recovered 30 miles off the Welsh coast and taken to the Irish port of Dunmore East.

Mud crater hunt

Lessing, Austria: Rescue workers continued searching for the bodies of 11 miners trapped underground at this Alpine village. A 300ft crater opened up, sending mud and water crashing in. (Reuters)

Kuwait hangings

Kuwait City: Two Iranian drug traffickers were hanged in Kuwait's first executions for such offences. In May the Government said more than 6,500 traffickers were arrested between 1991 and 1997. (AFP)

Blacks honoured

Washington: The first monument to honour the 179,000 black soldiers and sailors — and their white officers — who fought against the secessionist south in the US Civil War was inaugurated here. (AFP)

Frescos damaged

Rome: Vandals have damaged frescoes in two Vatican churches and the Oratory of St Bernardino in Perugia. The frescoes were sprayed with anarchist symbols and slogans.

Brake on adverts

Bonn: A ban on car advertisements boasting power, aggression or dominance is being considered by the European Commission in an attempt to cut road deaths, the newspaper *Bild* said. (AFP)

'Angel' starts Kosovo prison sentence

FROM ANTHONY LOYD
IN BELGRADE

A BRITISH diplomat who visited Sally Becker, the British aid worker, in Kosovo's only women's prison said she seemed to be in good health.

David Sinn, First Secretary at the British Embassy in

Belgrade, said: "I talked to her for about 40 minutes. The conditions seemed pretty good."

She began a month-long jail sentence in Djakovica, Kosovo, at the weekend after being convicted by Serb authorities of having illegally entered across the Albanian

border. Becker, 37, known as the Angel of Mostar after she rescued 25 wounded children from the southern Bosnian town, was arrested by Yugoslav soldiers in a frontier region above Junik, western Kosovo. Serb sources said she was trying to smuggle refugees into Albania.

□ Pristina: Belgrade and Tirana accused each other of violating territorial sovereignty as deaths from weekend clashes in Kosovo reached at least 110. The most serious fighting appeared to be between the Yugoslav Army and Albanians trying to enter the province. (AFP)

Army's adultery battle

Washington: A Pentagon committee has proposed downgrading the crime of adultery in the military judicial code so that charges would be brought only if a sexual relationship damaged the morale of a unit or its smooth running.

The new rules reflect the military's year-long struggle

to clarify its stance towards sex and personal relationships in the wake of several scandals. The military had been accused of following inconsistent and outdated principles. But the proposals, which could still be blocked if enough officers object, have provoked opposition at senior levels across the armed services.



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Murder trial for Julie Ward case suspect

FROM DAVID ORR IN NAIROBI

A HIGH-RANKING official in Kenya's wildlife service is due to appear in a Nairobi court today charged with the murder ten years ago of Julie Ward, the British tourist.

Simon ole Makallah, a game park warden at the time of her death in the Masai Mara reserve, was arrested at his home on Friday night. John Ward, an amateur sleuth and sworn avenger of his daughter's murder, has long suspected Mr Makallah of being involved in the killing.

The arrest of Mr Makallah, now an assistant director of the Kenya Wildlife Service, marks a personal victory for Mr Ward. The Suffolk hotelier, who has said he will not attend today's hearing, has campaigned relentlessly to have his daughter's killer or killers brought to justice.

It was Mr Makallah who in September 1988 discovered Julie Ward's remains seven miles from where her Suzuki vehicle was stuck in a gully. He said he had been led from the vehicle to the remains by vultures circling overhead. But his claim to have spotted the birds from a distance of seven miles with his naked eye is widely questioned.

The Kenyan authorities initially maintained that Ward had committed suicide. They then declared she had been eaten by wild animals and



Ward: dismembered

later suggested she had been struck by lightning.

Mr Ward has always believed his daughter was raped and murdered at Sand River camp in the Masai Mara. She had been photographing wildlife in the reserve, 200 miles south of Nairobi, when she disappeared.

A post mortem examination by a Kenyan police pathologist in 1988 revealed she had been murdered. There was evidence of a limb having been hacked off by a machete or a similar instrument.

But the pathologist's report was later altered by a senior police official who substituted the description "cleanly cut" with the words "torn and

cracked". The official admitted changing the report but refused to say why. An incensed Mr Ward flew the remains to Britain, where a Home Office pathologist confirmed the murder verdict. He established that the fatal blows were single swipes and that the body had been dismembered before being burnt.

Other bungled attempts at a cover-up by government officials and police officers followed. Various explanations have been offered as to why the Kenyan authorities should have tried to protect minor state employees.

It was suggested initially that the Government feared media coverage of the murder would harm Kenya's lucrative tourist industry. A series of conspiracy theories soon emerged.

One of these held that Ward had stumbled on a prominent politician involved in gun-running or in training a private militia. Another speculated she had come across a drug smuggling ring.

Mr Makallah and two other men have been under close scrutiny since a fresh inquiry into Ward's murder was ordered in 1996 by Kenya's President Moi. Previous investigations have cleared the three men.

The Kenyan Attorney-General has said it is possible that other people will soon be charged in connection with the murder.



Simon ole Makallah, left, and John Ward with the Kenyan Attorney-General



Nelson Mandela poses with Graça Machel outside his Johannesburg home hours before their secret wedding

Winnie angered by marriage

FROM INIGO GILMORE IN JOHANNESBURG

HAPPY scenes at the wedding of President Mandela and his companion Graça Machel — where his daughters kissed and hugged their stepmother — are reported to have angered Winnie Madikizela-Mandela, who is said to resent the South African President's second wife.

Television pictures broadcast across the world showed Zenani Mandela, one of two daughters from Mrs Mandela's marriage to the President, toasting her stepmother. "I want to thank the Lord for sending us Mama Graça," she said smiling. She then raised her champagne glass and embraced her step-

mother. Sunday newspapers also carried pictures showing Zindzi, the other daughter, dancing at a party marking her father's marriage to the 52-year-old widow of Samora Machel, Mozambique's founding President.

The daughters are thought still to be close to their mother, but the ANC Women's League president has apparently found it difficult to accept the situation. "Winnie is really angry about the whole scene," said one ANC insider.

While the couple were being showered with flowers after a private ceremony at the President's Johannesburg mansion, Mrs Mandela was in the Transkei attending the funeral of relatives killed in a

shootout believed to be linked to the theft of livestock. Yesterday she was not expected to comment publicly about a union that has bound two of the continent's most celebrated political families.

Right up until the ceremony on Saturday, presidential aides denied that Mr Mandela would celebrate his 80th birthday by marrying his companion.

Wedding guests included Thabo Mbeki, the ANC deputy president, and his wife, Dullah Omar, the Minister of Justice; Walter and Albertine Sisulu; three brothers of Graça Machel, and President Mandela's sister. The sermon was delivered by the retired archbishop Desmond Tutu. Graça Machel's friendship

with Mr Mandela dates back to 1986 after he wrote to her from Robben Island expressing his condolences over her husband's death in a plane crash. They met in 1990 after his release from prison, but their friendship only began to blossom in 1992.

Last night Mrs Machel — she is keeping her name — was due to take centre stage at a gala banquet in Johannesburg attended by more than 2,000 guests and being broadcast live on television.

Today the couple head for a week in South America, making their first stop in Brazil. During the two-day visit there affairs of state will take precedence as Mr Mandela prepares for his retirement next year.

Russians queue to pay last tribute to Tsar

FROM MICHAEL BINYON IN MOSCOW

RUSSIANS in their hundreds queued at the weekend to shuffle in silent tribute past the newly built vault containing the remains of Tsar Nicholas II, his wife, three of his daughters and servants.

As soon as the Cathedral of the Peter and Paul Fortress in St Petersburg opened its doors the day after the interment of the family's bones, a long line of people, some holding flowers, waited to pay respects at the spot where President Yeltsin had bowed his head in repentance the day before.

Some knelt and crossed themselves, others just craned their heads into the side chapel containing the wreath-covered family vault. The queue, kept swiftly moving by ushers, was eerily similar to those that daily used to file past Lenin in the Red Square mausoleum in Moscow.

The burial was the main story in most newspapers and film of the occasion was shown repeatedly on television. Most commentators and editorialists agreed that Mr Yeltsin's presence and electrifying speech was a coup that had restored some of his standing, saved the ceremony from an ignominious boycott and had rightly expressed sentiments of reconciliation and repentance widely shared by his countrymen.

Young people showed much more interest in the Tsar's reburial than the older generation, which is largely indifferent. In the Idiot, a fashionable bar and meeting place for Russian and foreign intellectuals in the centre of St Petersburg, a minute's silence was held in memory of the Tsar on Friday.

Wedding bells: Two of Russia's former Central Asian republics celebrated this weekend the founding of a new dynasty, with a spectacular wedding uniting the daughter of the President of Kazakhstan with the son of the Kyrgyz President. Ailya Nazarbayev, 18, married Aidar Akayev, 23, on the shores of a mountain lake in Kyrgyzstan amid widespread rejoicing.

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Challenging young fogeys reduce youth to virtual reality

Cynics say the German elections are a sham. The politicians cannot even identify the issues, never mind ignore or suppress them.

The cynics miss the point: the September general election is about changing the physiognomy of the political class. Out go square blue suits from C&A and shoulder-padded power women. In come Hugo Boss and linen outfits with black T-shirts. Out go paunches and crimson faces. In come pre-breakfast swimmers and suntans.

This is not just a fancy way of saying that Germany is facing a generational handover at the top. The age

INSIDE GERMANY



BY ROGER BOYES

gap between Helmut Kohl, the German Chancellor, who is 68, and his challenger Gerhart Schröder, 54, is not as big as it seems. Both men,

both generations, were shaped by war. Herr Kohl by the hunger and despair he felt as he walked across Germany from his refuge in Bavaria to his bombed-out home town of Ludwigshafen. For years he would live under the emotional shadow of the missing brother, his father's favourite, killed in action.

Herr Schröder, a baby when the war ended, lost his father on the Eastern Front somewhere in Romania, and lost his childhood because at the age of 14 he had to leave school to work in a porcelain shop to help to support the family.

As a result, these two generations, almost 15 years

apart, have a common world view: about Europe, about relations with America, about social consensus. Yet somehow the politicians in their fifties have to pose as impatient younger heirs, brimming with energy, determined to correct the wrongs of their fathers.

But it does not quite work. The more people talk about a Grand Coalition of Social Democrats and Christian Democrats, the more obvious it becomes that the young bucks are almost as tired and burnt out as the old guard. After 16 years of opposition, there is not much new

to say. To drop yet another generation and promote the mid-forties, the Blair cohort, is unthinkable in German politics. This is not a country that encourages under-forties to have serious political ambition since many Germans are close to 30 by the time they have completed university and army service.

What remains? The illusion of change, virtual reality politics. Politicians may not think young but they want to look it. Herr Schröder might be said to be in pursuit of the elixir of youth, his hair suspiciously black, his new wife, his new-found enthusiasm for the Scorpions rock group. But

this runs deeper. After all, politicians throughout history have dyed their hair.

What is happening is that the political arena in Germany is moving away from parliament to television. Herr Schröder, once dubbed a "surfer of the Zeitgeist", has even made a guest appearance in an episode of a soap opera. This was truly post-modern politics, a recognition that one is credible to the voter only when one is accepted as a television star.

The election then has become a fashion statement, and is none the worse for it. Television politicians shift to Armani glasses, lose weight,

take off their jackets when they make speeches. Politicians who perform only in parliament do not care how they look. Or, rather, fearing mockery and accusations of vanity, they dress down.

Karl Lagerfeld, surely an authority in the field, said recently: "If politicians look too spruce, people only start to talk about their mistresses."

A similar rule seems to apply to female politicians. Dagmar Wöhrl, a former Miss Germany and now a Bavarian deputy in parliament, deliberately plays down her looks to such an extent

that she has become almost invisible. Television, Dr Dimitri Panfilov, a Bonn plastic surgeon, says, brands politicians. If face and voice combine properly, obtain the right timbre, then politicians, irrespective of their politics, can become irresistible.

For a while Willy Brandt had this quality. He was the last Social Democratic Chancellor who persuaded the people that change was desirable, interesting, even sexy. Today's 50-year-olds try to mimic his gestures, his cadences, in the hope that German voters will change governments and not just television channels.

War crime court's rules will shield dictators, says US

FROM RICHARD OWEN IN ROME

KOFI ANNAN, the United Nations Secretary-General, hailed the establishment of a permanent war crimes tribunal at the weekend as a "giant step toward universal human rights" despite the refusal of the United States to sign the founding treaty in Rome.

US officials said the International Criminal Court's statutes would be a godsend to dictators seeking to evade justice and gave a warning that Washington might have to reassess its commitments because of fears that US troops in peacekeeping forces might be prosecuted for political reasons.

Mr Annan interrupted a tour of Latin America to travel to Rome for Saturday's signing ceremony. Friday's marathon talks had ended with a late-night vote of 120 to 7 in favour of the ICC treaty, with 21 abstentions. The court, which replaces a structure of occasional ad hoc proceedings in cases such as Rwanda and the former Yugoslavia, will have an independent prosecutor able to investigate war crimes, genocide and "crimes against humanity".

Mr Annan said many had wanted the court to be "invested with more far-reaching

powers", but he added: "This should not lead us to minimise the breakthrough." It will not come into being until ratified by 60 signatories, a process that could take several years. Diplomats said it was difficult to see how it could function effectively without American participation. China, Israel, Turkey, Sri Lanka and the Philippines also voted against, as did India, which had wanted the use of nuclear weapons classed as a war crime. "It's a joke," said K. Subrahmanyan, one of India's leading

security experts. "If you kill people with bullets, that is a crime. If you use nuclear weapons, that is not a crime. The international community has legitimised use of nuclear weapons."

Under ICC statutes, alleged war criminals can be arrested and brought before the court — to be based in The Hague alongside the International Court of Justice — if apprehended in their home country or the country in which the alleged crime took place. But a provision allowing suspects to be turned over to the ICC in a country where they had taken refuge was dropped. US officials said that gave "tyrants and butchers carte blanche to find a safe haven".

The ICC fulfils a dream nurtured at the UN since the Nuremberg trials of Nazi war criminals. But David Scheffer, chief US negotiator, said the court would be "strong on paper but weak in reality".

Under the statutes, the ICC prosecutor will have independent powers instead of answering to the UN Security Council, as Washington had demanded. A war crimes prosecution can be brought by the Security Council, the ICC prosecutor or a state.

Israeli anger on settlements

Jerusalem: Israel yesterday attacked a decision to make settlement activity in occupied territories a war crime within the jurisdiction of a future International Criminal Court. "We cannot fully express our outrage at seeing settlement activity put on the same level with the most odious war crimes," the Foreign Ministry said. (AFP)

Mask of Byron displays new face

FROM RICHARD OWEN

A WAX carnival mask worn by Lord Byron at the height of the great poet's passionate affair with a young Italian countess in the early 19th century goes on display in Rome today after a delicate restoration.

The mask, worn by Byron at a carnival in Ravenna in 1820, was given to the Keats-Shelley Memorial House 40 years ago. But Catherine Payling, 33, director of the museum, said she had been shocked by its deterioration when she took over 15 months ago.

The Keats-Shelley house, next to the Spanish Steps, where Keats died in 1821, contains memorabilia associated with Keats, Shelley and Byron, all of whom lived in Italy at the height of the Romantic movement. Byron had left England in 1816 after a series of affairs, and a disastrous year-long marriage, to join a brilliant group of English literary exiles that included Shelley and his wife, Mary. In the spring of 1819, Byron met Countess Teresa Guiccioli, who was only 20 and had been married for a year to a rich and eccentric Ravenna aristocrat three times her age. The encounter, he said later, "changed my

life", and from then on he confined himself to "only the strictest adultery". Byron gave up "light philandering" to live with Teresa, first in the Palazzo Guiccioli in Ravenna — conducting the affair under the nose of the count — and then in Pisa after the countess had obtained a separation by papal decree.

In his letters to John Murray, his publisher, Byron said that carnivals and balls were "the best thing about Ravenna, when everybody runs mad for six weeks", and described wearing the mask — which originally sported a thick beard — to accompany the countess to the carnival.

A document at the Keats-Shelley house authenticating the Ravenna mask records that Byron wore it several times during the carnival. Written in 1865 by Giovanni Ghinaglia, the maker of the



The mask, thought to have shown a pirate or ruffian, once had hair and a beard

mask — by then 81 — and witnessed by the Mayor of Ravenna; the document testifies that Byron paid a lous d'or (a French gold coin) for two wax masks, one for himself and one for the countess. "The mask now lacks almost

all the beard and hair, and the right ear is missing partly because of the time which has elapsed since it was made, but also because nobody has cared for it," Signor Ghinaglia wrote.

The grotesque mask, which Ms Payling believes was meant to represent "a ruffian, perhaps a pirate", has been restored by Sergio Angelucci, one of Europe's leading wax restorers, who has also restored reliquaries damaged at Assisi during last September's earthquake.

Ms Payling said the fragile mask would be displayed under a perspex dome to protect it from the dust and air. The mask was donated to the Keats-Shelley Museum in 1957 by Lady Clarke, wife of the then British Ambassador to Italy, Sir Ashley Clarke, and now President of Venice in Peril.



Byron: carnival reveller

Cultural 'Robin Hoods' in book raid

BY RICHARD OWEN

ITALIAN police said yesterday that they were baffled by the theft of 100,000 school and university textbooks, including Greek and Latin primers, in a "military-style raid" on a book depot in Turin.

Police said a dozen armed men dressed in black had held up staff at a warehouse belonging to the Loescher publishing house, founded in 1867 and specialising in classical textbooks.

The ten staff at the depot were held at gunpoint for two hours while the robbers loaded three articulated lorries with Latin and Greek dictionaries and standard school texts on history and geography. The books had been packed in cartons ready for distribution to schools and universities during the summer, before the start of the academic term in September.

"We are the Robin Hoods of culture," the robbers announced as they left. "We are stealing books to give them to less fortunate Italians," Riccardo Botrini, head of Loescher, said he believed the theft was "the first of its kind". La Stampa said that in an age of electronic multimedia it was "encouraging that some people think books were worth stealing at all".

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Beat of wings that can drive a car

The marriage of living organisms and artificial creations has amazing implications for human beings. Anjana Ahuja reports

The phantom limb — that is, when a person who has lost an arm or leg feels as though it is still there — is one of the most extraordinary phenomena known to medical science. Scientists believe that the neurons which are responsible for translating thought into action stay active, even after the limb that they control has disappeared. This suggests that the neural circuitry for operating a limb remains intact, at least for some time after injury or amputation. Astonishingly, biologists believe that living human cells could one day be grafted on to a prosthesis, and that the body will be fooled into recognising the new limb as its own. The result would be an artificial limb controlled by the brain. The recipient would technically be a cyborg — part man, part machine — and the stuff of endless science fiction fantasies.

Such a limb is well within the grasp of scientists such as Steve Bathiche, a bioengineer at the University of Washington in Seattle. He has developed a car that is driven by the faint electrical signals

produced by a moth's flight muscles. The Mothmobile, as it is affectionately called, is one of the most notable examples of a hybrid system, in which a living organism is an integral part of an artificial creation. Other exotic spin-offs of this hybrid approach include building computers with human brain cells, to endow them with real intelligence, and making wheelchairs that can be steered with the twitch of a facial muscle.

While a student at Virginia Tech, Bathiche began to become interested in the field of bioengineering. "I guessed it must be possible for an insect to control a car, so I put a little electronic car together," he says. "Then I thought 'Let's hook a bug up to it and see what happens.'"

Dr Jeff Bloomquist, an insect neuroscientist supervising the experiment, mustered a cockroach and inserted slender wires from the car into its wing muscles. Bathiche gently blew on its wings, to make the insect think that it was aloft and therefore start flying. "The car, with cockroach attached, went zooming down the corridor," Bathiche says.

'We hadn't expected it to work; in fact, the car nearly crashed'



Staring moth: an American bioengineer has developed a car that is driven by the faint electrical signals produced by a moth's flight muscles

"We hadn't really expected it to work first time, so it was really cool. In fact, it worked so well that the car nearly crashed."

To prevent a mishap in later experiments, Bathiche locked the wheels so that the car would only go round in circles. He also swapped the cockroach for a moth — "they fly much faster and more elegantly, and they turn better."

The Mothmobile works, he says, by tapping into the decisions that the moth makes about where it wants to go. The decisions are finally implemented in the wing muscles, each of which is controlled by one neuron.

The moth is tethered to a small

boom, which sits on the car. A tiny electrode (conducting wire) is pushed into a wing muscle, and a reference electrode is inserted into the moth's body.

The moth is now part of a complete electrical circuit. When the muscles start firing, they generate a very regular series of electrical spikes, each with the strength of a few thousandths of a volt. This signal is amplified and cleaned up to get rid of noise. Then it is fed into a small computer, which uses the signal to drive the motor. The faster the moth flaps its wings, the faster the car goes.

The moth also wears a tiny harness, which measures how much it

is turning its body. This information is interpreted by the computer in order to turn the car accordingly. "The beauty of it is that it is an adaptive system," Bathiche says.

"There is feedback between the car and the moth. For example, the moth will know which direction it wants to go in, and will turn its body to get there. If the environment doesn't match up to where it wants to be, it will keep on turning. It will use its muscles and its own intelligence to correct its flight path."

He says the Mothmobile shows what hybrid electronics can do in a very simple case. His next step is to wire a person to a wheelchair, and

use facial muscle twitches — or even eyebrow movements — to steer it. The main challenge is finding a way of distinguishing these very sensitive signals from background noise.

The most coveted goal in bioengineering is to get neurons — brain cells — to survive and work in an artificial setting. The result would be a living neural network, which could learn from past experience, just as living organisms do. Several teams around the world, including the University of Washington, are racing to achieve this.

Bathiche says: "It should be possible within the next five to seven years, and it will probably take

about the same time again to get workable applications. We could use them not just for new limbs and smart wheelchairs, but also to design robots.

"For example, one of the great goals in robotics is to design a robot that can cope with different types of terrain as elegantly as an insect can. We don't have such a machine yet."

"I believe that bioengineering is going to become an extremely hot field, because biology can provide us with great inspiration. Nature has designed some fabulous machines, and if only we can find out how they work, then we can make our own."

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This gene might make you an addict

WE are all acquainted with the notion that, somehow, our genes make us what we are. The problem is, we don't quite know how far we can push the growing evidence. For example, while there is no question that eye colour or height are biologically determined, controversy surrounds the idea that genes control whether a person becomes an alcoholic or a psychopath.

Now another study has emerged that strengthens this thesis. Scientists at Pittsburgh University have pinpointed another gene implicated in drug and alcohol abuse. Their findings have been published in the journal *Behavior Genetics*. The researchers decided to

hunt for it after studies on rats suggested that the gene influenced which animals would become addicted to cocaine.

They found the gene, which is linked to a brain receptor called DRD5, was more prevalent in drug abusers than in the general population. More than 80 per cent of drug addicts possessed this gene, compared with half the control group. Moreover, one in three addicts had inherited two copies of the gene. Half the non-addicts had no copies, and only one in seven of the control group possessed both. The mode of operation of gene should be the same in human beings and rats. Scientists

believe that it strengthens the brain's response to "highs", so that addicts are more sensitive to stimulants. Alcohol and drugs, which deliver a particularly powerful sensory punch, become harder to resist.

So it seems reasonable to deduce that, during experimentation with alcohol and drugs, people with the gene are more likely to become hooked.

However, the scientists who carried out the work have been restrained in their interpretation. The finding, they



SCIENCE BRIEFING
 Anjana Ahuja

say, cannot be boiled down to a "gene for alcoholism", especially as the gene is relatively common among the population. Moreover, the research shows that people with two copies of the sequence do not necessarily fall into abuse; environment remains a key part of the puzzle.

Instead, the Pittsburgh research is trying to clarify how influential the gene is among all the other factors that turn a person into a drug addict.

Most immediately, it might lead to a rethink in the way

people are assessed for drug addiction. At the moment psychological assessments are carried out. Adding a genetic component would give more accurate predictions, says Dr Michael Vanyukov, who led the research. Others are even more guarded.

"We have to be cautiously optimistic until the study is repeated and replicated," says Dr David Ball, a senior lecturer at the Institute of Psychiatry in London and a specialist in alcohol addiction. "If it is confirmed, that will be very exciting."

The main benefit in finding the biology underlying addiction is that we can develop new treatments, because the

ones we now have are not very successful — 80 per cent of alcoholics who undergo detox relapse within the first year. It seems that even when people stop drinking, not everything in their brain is reset." He adds that it could help to prevent vulnerable individuals from succumbing to addiction, perhaps by genetic screening.

There is, he notes, a problem with that: "In the future employers might ask potential employees to produce a genetic CV to see whether they are going to become an alcoholic or have a heart attack. We really need to debate the ethical and moral implications of these findings."

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The killing fields of a tiny monster

NATURE'S versions of David and Goliath are soon to be slugging it out in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park on the North Carolina-Tennessee border. In one corner stands possibly the most ancient hemlock tree in the world. This example of the giant evergreen species stands 170ft tall with a 4ft-wide trunk, and has thrived for four centuries. It is called the Yonaguska hemlock, in honour of a Cherokee leader. In the other corner crouches the hemlock woolly adelgid, an insect that feeds on the juices of hemlocks. It has ravaged the species in 11 US states — it is advancing rapidly towards the park, which harbours a 4,000-acre feast of trees, including the Yonaguska. Attack brings a swift demise — the needles fall out and the tree dies within a year.

A glimmer of hope comes from a beetle identified by scientists in Connecticut. Tests show that the beetle, which eats the adelgid, can kill between 45 and 90 per cent of the pests, but researchers are not sure if the beetle could reproduce enough to control it in such a large forest. Meanwhile, the adelgid has reached North Carolina, spread by wind and birds.

Its arrival will spell disaster for the hemlock grove, which has several unique insect varieties and two species of salamander unknown elsewhere.

A 30-second recipe for ice-cream

THERE are few greater pleasures on a hot day than a smooth, richly flavoured scoop of vanilla ice-cream. And, physicists say, the secret of a really decent scoop owes as much to science as to high-quality ingredients.

There are four components to ice-cream — ice crystals, fat crystals, air bubbles and the thick sugary liquid that binds them together. The texture is determined by how much sugar is added. "As the ice crystals grow, more sugar is left in solution," says Dr Peter Barham, a Bristol University lecturer who will be demonstrating the science of making ice-cream at the Institute of Physics in London on Thursday. "The freezing point of the mixture decreases, and this makes it more viscous."

Air bubbles are necessary to soften the frozen mixture, otherwise it would be as hard as ice. But bubble size is crucial: "If it's too big, you would be biting into a void. You would go 'crunch, snap, crunch'. The bubbles must also be small enough for you not to see them, or feel them with your teeth." The size of fat crystals depends on the dairy ingredients used. Regular stirring is important to stop ice crystals growing like spears.

Fast freezing leads to a more delicious concoction, as the volatile chemicals responsible for flavour have less time to evaporate. At Thursday's lecture Dr Barham will be putting these tips to the test and revealing his 30-second recipe; visitors will be invited to taste the results. Call the IOP on 071-470 4800 for details.

● Nigel Hawkes is away.

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'Diana was a joy to dress'



David Sassoon adjusts the hem of a dress from the autumn/winter collection

Times have changed, but David Sassoon is still a top name, says Grace Bradberry

David Sassoon glances at the racks of glamorous ballgowns in the studio in Chelsea. "One must be doing something right to survive. The generation I came in was that of Ossie Clarke, Bill Gibb and Zandra Rhodes." Where are they now, you might ask. Whereas David Sassoon is still here, 40 years after he joined forces with Belinda Bellville as a student from the Royal College of Art back in 1958.

"At that time we were doing couture only. Women would come in and buy a wardrobe for the whole season - two cocktail dresses, two evening dresses, an outfit for Ascot and so on," he says. "Fashion is much easier today. Nobody wants to go through the business of three fittings and couture is no longer something women wear on a daily basis. They'll order for a wedding or a grand ball and it will cost a great deal of money."

As times have changed, so has Sassoon's business. Belinda Bellville retired in 1984, and in 1987 Sassoon merged with the Irish designer Lorcan Mullany, who had his own label. These days the ready-to-wear, designed by Mullany and his co-designer, George Sharp, accounts for 80 per cent of the business. Sassoon himself concentrates on the couture.

the sailor-style dress she wore for her first official portrait, and her peach going-away outfit. There was also the blue flowered dress that she wore and wore until commentators criticised its frequent appearance, and the maternity outfits that cause Sassoon to pull a face: "Maternity has never been my thing."

When Diana first came of age, many of the "rules" were still in place. "You couldn't wear velvet after May, and you had to wear a hat to every wedding." If today there are no rules, then that is partly thanks to the Princess. "The Princess stopped wearing gloves, and was the first to wear trousers. She also stopped wearing hats. Sometimes she would say to me 'I want to surprise everyone'."

"She was a joy to dress - not at all difficult. Contrary to what you might think, she didn't make a fuss about clothes. She didn't have endless fittings."

She would often return sketches with nothing more than the word "Please!" written neatly in pencil. Small presents and thank-you notes always followed the delivery of a dress.

The Princess introduced Lady Sarah Armstrong-Jones to Sassoon. "She gave Lady Sarah a red taffeta dress as a gift. I remember them sitting in the dressing room drinking tea and giggling."



One of Sassoon's later creations for Diana, showing how her style gradually evolved from romanticism to a more sophisticated look

"I've been lucky to find Lorcan. The new generation is another direction. That's the art of survival - always look forward," says Sassoon. Should he choose to take a backward glance, he can scan the archive books in which every Bellville Sassoon "moment" since 1958 has been recorded.

Over the years he has dressed Elizabeth Taylor, Audrey Hepburn, Marisa Berenson and numerous other film stars and socialites. He designed Princess Michael of Kent's wedding gown, and has also dressed Princess Alexandra, the Duchess of York, the Duchess of Kent and, most famously, Diana, Princess of Wales.

Within his gold-embossed cuttings book are pictures of Julie Christie in a gold mesh minidress and Catherine Deneuve in culottes. He also has a special volume devoted to Diana, which begins when the young bride-to-be was taken to the country by her mother.

"When I first made clothes for her she was a young girl and had been used to a tight budget. She was painfully shy and listened to what her mother told her to wear. A year after she married, she knew just what she wanted," he recalls. Among the early outfits were

Just as the Princess moved from romantic and fundamentally demure clothes towards a more overtly sexy style, so Sassoon has seen a shift in the tastes of his clients generally.

"Women are very body-conscious now, and want clothes that show off their figures. At one stage women wanted to look glamorous and sophisticated but emphatically not sexy. They'd never have a neck that was too low or a skirt that was too tight. Now every generation likes to look sexy."

Whatever the trends, there are certain things he has found women also want: "They don't actually like being bare and are particularly sensitive about the tops of their arms and they like flattering necklines."

While Bellville Sassoon/Lorcan Mullany still do a few quite traditional ballgowns, the autumn/winter ready-to-wear collection is trend-led with sleek, ultra-modern sheath dresses, backless gowns with fringed shawl details, and beautiful dove fabrics. "Fashion editors will call and say, 'Could you lend us a big skirt?' Then they come in and realise that we do so much more," says David Sassoon with a smile.



The original sketch for a velvet evening gown with antique lace trim and how it looked on Diana. "She never made a fuss and didn't have endless fittings"



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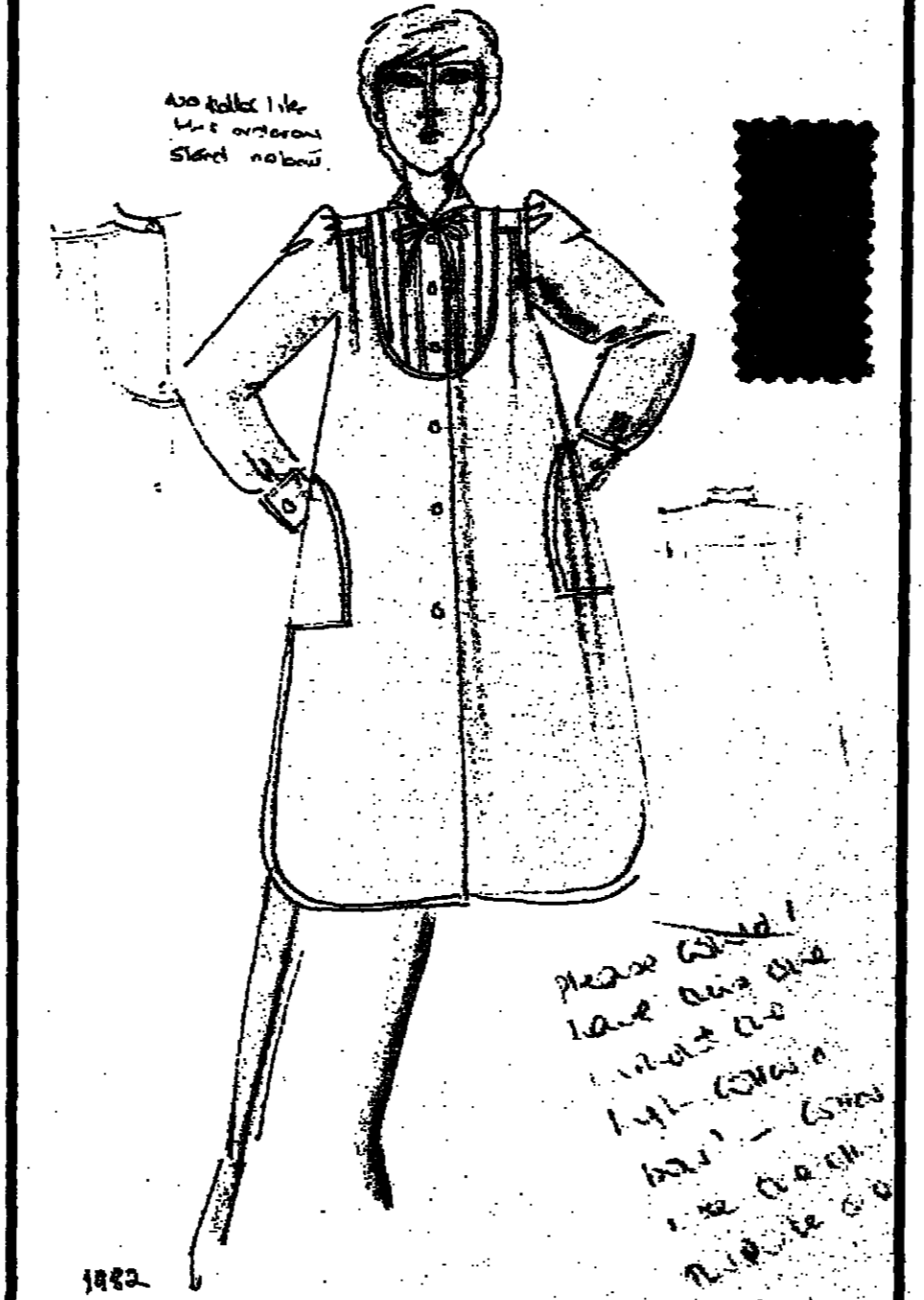
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A sketch for a maternity dress with Diana's comments written in pencil. Her notes were always accompanied by the word "please"



The blue flowered dress that was a favourite of Diana's until commentators criticised her for wearing it too frequently

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Does this New Age pendant have magical powers?

Protecting against 'bioelectric rays' is the latest obsession. Anjana Ahuja reports

All eyes were on Cherie Booth's elegant outfit as she swanned into the premiere of the musical *Dr Doolittle* with her daughter, Kathryn, last week. A matte silver disc-shaped pendant added a pleasing dash of millennial modernity to her flowing cream trouser suit and charcoal scarf.



The crystal pendant

Closer inspection appears to reveal that this is not merely a fashion item but an "energy pacemaker". The New Age necklace is said to shield against the "harmful energies" of other people, and against the mild radiation given off by computers and other office equipment. The protection comes from a "magical configuration" of tiny crystals inside the pendant — these deflect supposedly harmful "bioelectric rays". It has even been speculated, only half-jokingly, that Ms Booth's crystals can ward off the radiation emanating from the mobile phones of spin-doctors. Downing Street has refused to comment on her choice of adornment — all inquiries are met with light-hearted brush-offs.

22,000 of his creations. Customers allegedly include Bill Cosby, the comedian, and Steven Seagal, the actor.

The tale of the sterling silver pendant's origins is perplexing. Its inventor, an American chiropractor, Charles Brown, heard voices in his head telling him of the power of certain crystals. Later, as he lay in his log cabin in Montana, Dr Brown received a vision of a flying saucer-style pendant. Eight years later, he has sold

Ms Booth's endorsement could be quite unwitting — perhaps she was given the necklace as a present, unaware of its supposed hidden powers. David Chambers, who sells the pendants in Wiltshire costing from £105 up to £749 for a 14-carat gold version, thinks the Prime Minister's wife was told about them by Hillary Clinton. This is entirely plausible, since First Ladies have a track record in odd beliefs — Nancy Reagan insisted on arranging her husband's schedule around her astrologer's advice.

In fact, both Ms Booth and Mrs Clinton are highly intelligent, no-nonsense women. Are we really to believe that Ms Booth thinks that a handful of crystals can somehow neutralise the scowl etched across Alastair Campbell's face? Can



The matte silver disc-shaped pendant Cherie Booth wore at the *Dr Doolittle* premiere

it really keep at bay all the bad karma swirling in Downing Street? We must surely know that she wears it simply because it is pretty. Bharu Vyas, an holistic therapist whom Ms Booth is known to visit, says she has never seen such a pendant before. She thinks it most likely that Cherie received the pendant as a gift.

"Cherie is a fantastically strong woman, and she is a tower of strength to her family," says Mrs Vyas, who specialises in lymphatic drainage and auricular therapy (acupuncture) at her Central London clinic. "However, whether one is strong or not, life takes its toll on all of us. And it's in our interests to protect ourselves, wouldn't you say? If she wants to wear one, it's a personal thing. It's up to her."

Mrs Vyas thinks it entirely plausible that the crystals could work as claimed. "The body has its own magnetic fields and energy levels. Human cells vibrate at a different frequency from the radiation emitted by computers, so it is possible that there is a conflict." She doesn't worry that scientists have labelled the pendant a pseudo-scientific sham.

"There are lots of therapies and healing techniques, especially from the Eastern world, which have never been proven by scientific methods. Yet they work for many people." Worries about radiation go back a long way. Computers, televisions, microwaves and now mobile telephones have all instigated national panics. Scientists are taking seriously the threat to health from mobile phones — several European studies are investigating how the microwaves used in cellular phones affect brain tissue. The effect of powerlines on human health has also raised concern.

A few months ago, magnets were said to repel unseen ills. There is some precedent for this — many medical studies have tried to assess the benefits conferred by magnetic therapy (another of Mrs Vyas's specialties). She believes in drinking magnetised water, which involves applying a strong magnet to a water bottle for 12 hours and then drinking the contents. The magnets cost £22 and can be obtained after a £23 consultation. She says

the therapy can help any condition, especially arthritis. She also encourages clients to wear a magnet for a week, to "return the body's magnetic balance". Magnets sound wacky but one American study showed that wearing one appeared to alleviate chronic pain. However, there is a wealth of research showing the opposite. That has not stopped several companies peddling magnetic bracelets. One company even recommends them for pets.

Crystals and magnets are not the only objects in which people have invested uncertain faith. The Duchess of York had Madame Vasso and her pyramid. A worrying number of homeowners have had their entire living spaces rearranged on the whim of a feng shui expert. Some prospective housebuyers will even steer clear of certain numbers

and street names because they harbour bad vibes. Some misguided souls believe in the absurd notion, peddled by numerologists, that continually adding up all the digits in their birth date will give them their "life number". Each number between one and nine has its own supposed qualities, which rub off on those who claim a connection. Scientists claim this is all balderdash. They particularly dislike the way that exponents raid the vocabulary of science to sell their flawed therapies to an unsuspecting public. To be fair, many people claim that crystals and faith healing and magnetic therapy have blessed them with vigour, happiness and creativity. However, doctors say that nearly all the alleged benefits of these strange therapies are in the mind of the user. The so-called placebo effect arises when a patient thinks that a treatment is doing him good, even though it is doing nothing whatsoever. Our powers of self-delusion are so strong that the placebo effect is designed into all clinical drug trials. Some might legitimately argue that having a bizarre belief or two is no bad thing, if it makes us feel better. In that case, let us wear our crystals, pyramids and magnets with pride.

The nightmare of the school run

John Prescott is right to wage war on a daily fiasco for many parents, argues Valerie Grove

It was infuriating, exasperating, road-rage inducing, the single most stressful thing about having children: the school run.

John Prescott is right to wage war upon it in his *White Paper* on transport published today. There will be not a single voice raised in its defence. For me the school run is over — hooray. But I look back on 15 years of hard labour and penance you serve if you drive your children to school.

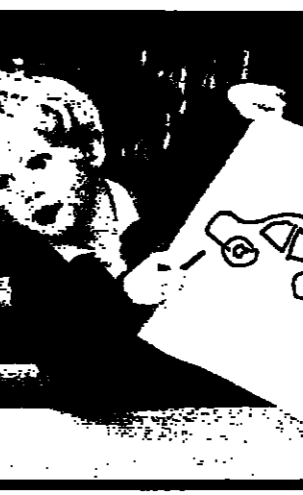
I hated it. I hated being among them — those Volvos and the four-wheel drives with bull-bars in front and one tiny, uniformed princeling in the back. I hated becoming one of them. In the litany of parental woes, it was worse than sleepless nights or labour pains, worse than homework miseries or the penalty caused by school fees. But what could one do? Even happy parents who used schools within the borough started driving to them, in the 1970s, just for safety.

Fitzjohn's Avenue in Hampstead, North London, is a byword in school run circles — at least six little prep schools reside in the neighbourhood, to which hordes of pupils from Islington, Camden and Haringey are hand-delivered and collected daily. All roads in North London get choked from 7.45am till 9am. Highgate and Hampstead villages become gridlocked. Outside the schools, hooting, screaming disputes break out. Local residents were understandably furious. Schools would urge parents not to double-park or turn. It was no good: every day there was a méele as dangerous as Hyde Park Corner.

Often I looked back with envy on my parents' easy life, before school runs were invented. At five, I walked

along to Downhill Infants' School — through a picturesque farmyard with chickens and piglets. All the children walked: nobody had to cross any roads. At eight, I cycled. Later I took a Tube, or the bus, reverted to my bike again, and finally graduated to borrowing the parents' car in the sixth form — and even that didn't bother anyone. Traffic jams, yellow lines and pollution were unknown in the suburbs of London in the 1960s.

Now, school runs account for as many as 25 per cent of all car journeys in rush-hour



Stressful: cars and children don't mix

London (and 12 per cent of all car journeys nationwide). It isn't even as if parents have civilised conversations with their children on the run — 40 minutes of "quality time". In fact you listen to the *Today* programme while they, sedentary and squabbling, speak to you only to say they've left their PE kit or their dinosaur project behind.

I used to think that only the British were so stupid as to leave it up to parents to ferry their children to and from school: that every other country had school buses. Then I found myself in Santiago, Chile, accompanying a mother to pick up her child in a downtown school, miles from their salubrious home, in a wildly hooting traffic

jam in pouring rain. I thought this must be happening all over the world, every day of term. Are we mad?

The day I made my last school run, two summers ago, I felt no sorrow at the passing of an era, at having no children young enough to need transporting. It was the most welcome passport to freedom imaginable. And on that very day I first saw the white, radio-linked minibuses of the School Run Company, which now operates all round this area — but which alas was created

too late for me. It was set up by parents, Matthew Silverstone and Teresa Godbold — not as an altruistic gesture to help to save the environment, but because they found their own school runs unmanageable alongside their own au-pairing business. Setting up the School Run Company, which charges parents £30-£40 a week, was complicated: it involved training for Matthew at evening classes (to become a qualified transport manager) and Passenger Carrying Vehicle licences. But it is a success story, blessed by parents and motorists alike. Such enterprises are surely a more realistic way to tackle the problem than persuading parents to use neighbourhood schools or creating children's cycle routes. I cannot be alone in deciding long ago that to watch a child wobbling off on a two-wheeler into the traffic was a pleasure as extinct as watching them bowling a hoop on a stick.

No, the answer is in using one vehicle instead of 12, and obliging schools to join forces with parents to organise a fleet. The results would be instantaneous — as they are on the first day of the school holidays, when roads become magically free again.

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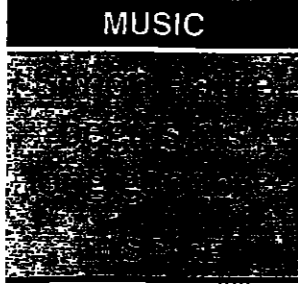
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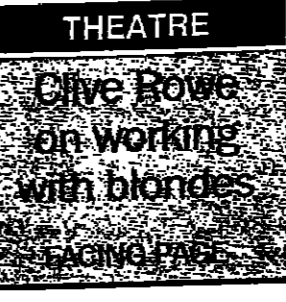
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The most gracious of ladies

OPERA: John Higgins sees Kiri Te Kanawa lead Glyndebourne's revival of its 25-year-old *Capriccio*

John Cox's staging of *Capriccio* was the most elegant of all the Strauss works he directed at Glyndebourne. He artfully moved the composer's final opera from the 18th century to a gilded 1920s where the aristocracy still had the wherewithal — and the inclination — to spend days discussing artistic matters and flirt with those who provided words and music.

A quarter of a century on, the Cox *Capriccio* deftly shaped as a comedy of manners, slides silkily into Glyndebourne's new house as though made especially for it. The Count and Countess live in fastidious luxury: furniture in the best possible taste, walls of royal blue and a posse of solemn servants who would never let a crumb soil the sofas. And now, of course, there are surtitles, crucial for this opera which has its verbose moments as well as its glorious ones.

The autumnal glow of a vanished world is encapsulated by Dame Kiri Te Kanawa as the Countess Madeleine. Her figure is less opulent than once it was, and so at times is her voice. Te Kanawa relies quite heavily on making the Countess the most gracious of ladies, indulging the caprices of others and more than a few of her own. On Saturday's opening night she appeared to be holding back many of her vocal resources for the final 15 minutes, most reflective of Strauss's rich closing scenes for soprano and orchestra. For much of the evening she used a light, almost kittenish tone

with not all the words distinct. The final monologue of indecision brought back some of the double cream to a voice that hitherto had been mainly single cream. She made her exit, as the lights go out around her, with infinite grace.

By her side Glyndebourne has assembled a crack cast, each figure on stage carefully composed in dress and style. Richard Croft's high tenor gleams as the musician Flamand, setting verses with instant melodic ease. Gerard Finlay's brooding good looks as the poet Olivier suggest a fiercer temperament, quickly stirred when his words are "ruined".

To keep a kind of peace there is the majestic figure of La Roche, the theatre director who brings a sense of reality and a touch of vulgarity to this over-refined household. Victor von Halem, in a most distinguished house debut, prowls the stage like an angry bear as he inveighs against the stupidities of audiences.

Rodney Gilfrey's Count is a haughty stage-door Johnny pursuing in leather hunting boots the actress Clairon, a properly supercilious Kathryn Harries. Bonaventura Bottono and Jennifer Rhys-Davies were deliciously over the top as the operatic Italian tenor and soprano.

Andrew Davis is an old hand at this piece and the LPO chaps were on their mellowest and most luminous form for him. This was Glyndebourne putting on the style. Next month brings a change of dame, Felicity Lott taking over from Te Kanawa.



Stylish revival: Dame Kiri Te Kanawa as the Countess in John Cox's "deftly shaped" staging of Strauss's last opera

Fledgeling takes flight

At last redemption has visited the beleaguered Buxton Festival — in the figure of the 12-year-old Mozart. The festival may still not have found — or regained — its operatic *raison d'être*, but this year's production of Mozart's first comic opera, *La finta semplice* (The False Simpleton), has turned out to be the kind of success for which Buxton has been waiting for almost a decade.

For a start, the opera itself. So shrewd was young Wolff's observation of the games grown-ups play, so deft his musical mimicry, that the only reward he had for his sweated labour in Vienna was the jealous accusation that his father must have written the opera after all. It wasn't even performed.

Of course this is opera buffa scarcely out of its infancy, with the antique undergarments of the commedia dell'arte still peeping out from under the motley of Goldoni's old crones, drunken bullies, amorous fools and noisy soldiers. And of course the endless clichés about the pros and cons of marriage, the very stuff of which rococo soap opera was made, are for much of the time sung out in musical platitudes, albeit highly accomplished ones.

But then, suddenly, time stands still. After a string of strenuously comic turns, an oboe and cor anglais entwined and echo the enraptured beating of Countess Rosina's heart. And again, a single note, a vocal sigh sustained for what seems eternity, is met by a groundswell of strings and dark woodwind, as if the gentle breezes of *Così fan tutte* are going to spirit them all away. The child is glor-



La finta semplice Opera House Buxton

ously father of the man. This could be no one but Mozart, and the Northern Chamber Orchestra under Guido Johannes Rumstadt does him proud.

Aidan Lang, who has just directed a perfectly judged Mozart opera seria for Garsington in *Lucio Silla*, shows comparable flair in opera buffa. In a set (Christopher Woods) which nicely answers Buxton's own architectural meeting of the 18th and 19th centuries in its verdant classical perspectives and pavilions, Lang propels an elegant, often very funny *va et vient* of comic ensemble work, dashing in its style, perfect in its timing.

The pairs of lovers rise to the wit of Adam Pollock's rhyming translation as it springs into recitative. And there are voices here to catch Mozart's fledgeling melodies and give them wing. Janis Kelly rises radiantly to the challenge of Rosina's two showstoppers: the roles of Giacinta and Ninetta, respectively, show off admirably the lustrous voices and stage presence of Christine Rice and Gail Pearson.

And while Jonathan Best rages on as the inebriated Don Cassandro, Paul Nilon falls over his feet as the irresistibly gormless Don Polidoro.

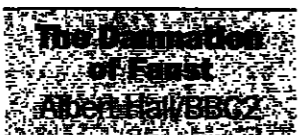
Further performances tonight, Thursday and Saturday.

HILARY FINCH

CONCERTS: Black magic at the opening weekend of the Proms; plus, in Birmingham, the start of Sir Simon Rattle's farewell season

They're off! With a blaze of heaven-storming harmony from 200 pairs of lungs, a sensuous swish from ten harps and a grandiose blast from a massive orchestra, the 104th season of BBC Proms was launched on Friday in rousing style. Traditionally the First Night is reserved for one of the monster raving loonies of the choral repertoire. And Berlioz's *The Damnation of Faust* is as vast and nutty as they come.

Hell of a good show for starters

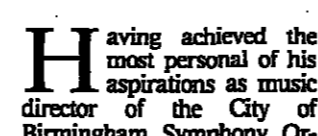


Berlioz, the ebullient maverick of 19th-century French Romanticism, raided Goethe for his poetry and Marlowe for his hellbound denouement, then cast this *légende dramatique* as a kind of musical travesty. Hungarian marches jostle with mock-Teutonic fugues, rustic merry-making with wispy *ancien régime* dances.

It could have been a mess, but isn't. That is partly because Berlioz constantly debunks his own high-flown passions with shafts of irony, truly malevolent force. His fervour was matched by the magnificently drilled choruses (BBC Singers, BBC Symphony Chorus, New London Children's Choir). They tore into the drinking songs, the Soldiers' Chorus and finally the terrifying *Pandemonium* like souls possessed — which is exactly what they are supposed to be.

"blimished by a single slip"; and Donald Maxwell made a lively fist of Brander's bumptious *Song of the Rat*. But the chief glory of *The Damnation* is the orchestral writing. Under Andrew Davis's admirable direction the BBC Symphony Orchestra had a hell of a good time — from the languid cor anglais solo in Marguerite's *Romance* and the perky woodwind in the *Will-o-the-Wisp Minuet* to the final apocalyptic gallop. Indeed, the evening's only faux-pas was the BBC's ill-mannered decision to keep audience and performers waiting between scenes while an announcer addressed TV viewers. A slow handcap started, something I have never heard at the Proms before. The producer responsible should be sent on a personal Ride to the Abyss.

Inspired by extravagance



Having achieved the most personal of his aspirations as music director of the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra, Sir Simon Rattle can leave that post with his ambitions fulfilled. While most of the other composers he has adopted as specialities would have had to be fairly represented in the repertoire anyway, Karol Szymanowski could easily have been ignored. Sir Simon has, however, demonstrated the rare quality of Szymanowski's genius on several occasions and now, at last, he has got his three-act opera *King Roger* into Symphony Hall.



This was a concert performance, of course, sung in Polish with English super-titles. It would take a vast amount of money to realise the elaborate splendour of the staging envisaged by Szymanowski and his librettist Jaroslaw Iwaskiewicz. A Byzantine cathedral, a royal palace, a ruined Greek amphitheatre: it must have seemed extravagant even when first performed in Warsaw in 1926. With such a richly evocative score to stimulate the senses it is not difficult to imagine the setting anyway. Certainly, it is easier than accepting the basic cultural contradiction that has Dionysus alive and well and disguised as a shepherd in Christian 12th-century Sicily and making as drastic an impact on the court of King Roger as John the Baptist on that of the Tetrarch of Galilee and Perea.

There is no Salome to demand the prophet's head — although Rogers' Queen Roxana falls for him in a big way — but Strauss's opera echoes at several points in the first two acts, where its exoticism is unmistakable even when multiplied to extremes. That is both the strength and the weakness of Szymanowski's music here: it is heavily scented and irresistibly sensual but so fluid in its sliding chromatic harmonies and modally inflected lines that the shape of its recurring motifs and its sense of direction are not always clearly defined. The third act, where King Roger decides against following the Dionysian hippy trail and adopts a healthy C major, is disconcertingly different.

Fortunately, in Thomas Hampson, the Rattle cast had a Roger with the authority and the voice to carry off this late conversion and intone his hymn to the sun with glowing conviction. In Elzbieta Szymytko it also had a Roxana who, though not ideally voluptuous in sound, could negotiate with ease the rapturous arabesques of her nocturnal aria in the second act. With the CBSO Chorus and Youth Chorus both exceptionally well prepared and with the CBSO so expertly supplying the overheated colouring and the authentic erotic atmosphere, Rattle had all he needed to demonstrate what an inspired score this is.

GERALD LARNER

Smaller.

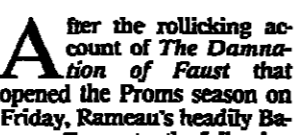
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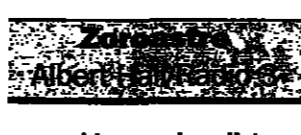
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Fired by the force of nature



After the rollicking account of *The Damnation of Faust* that opened the Proms season on Friday, Rameau's headily Baroque *Zoroastre* the following evening might at first sight have looked like something completely different, but in the event not all that different. Rameau's use of the orchestra was as startlingly innovative as Berlioz's, and the superbly disciplined playing of Les Arts Florissants under William Christie kept one's eyebrows raised for all of the three hours: could this music really have been written in 1757?



The librettist, Louis de Cahusac, was a prominent Freemason, and both the imagery and syntax in his account of a battle between darkness and light, between

tenor Zoroastre to a widely-spaced string chord with flutes on top is a simple but infinitely telling *coup*, and throughout the restless, syncopated rhythms and low woodwind colouring for the baddies is in stark contrast to the calm, ethereal writing for the goodies.

Then there are the forces of nature: show Rameau an earthquake, and he's off, with mind-boggling verisimilitude. Spectacle is built into *Zoroastre*: pillars of fire descend and consume the Bactrian capital, "the walls vanish" to reveal a city square crowded with people, and at the end the earth opens to swallow the villains and reveal a gleaming temple. Staging the piece is beyond the resources of our opera com-

panies, but Christie and his players gave the most vivid substitute imaginable. The singers were tried and trusted Christie regulars, none of them with huge voices, all of them projecting easily into the wide open spaces. In the high-flying title role, Mark Padmore soared effortlessly with never a hint of strain — pure magic. Clive Bayley's singing is so richly, almost expressionistically, coloured as perhaps to offend Baroque purists, but Christie knows what he wants and this bass villain was thrillingly larger than life. Gaëlle Méchalay was the pure-toned, agile heroine, and Thierry Féliz ideally warm and poised as the Speaker equivalent.

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Doing nicely thank you

Clive Rowe isn't interested in colour-blind casting, just in being a good actor. Carol Allen reports

When Clive Rowe was a little boy he used to sit in front of his mother drinking in the classic 1950s musicals. But he confesses he has only the vaguest memory of *Gentlemen Prefer Blondes*. "I remember Jane Russell and Marilyn Monroe in something where they wore glittery swimsuits and big headresses," he recalls, "but I'm not sure if that was actually *Gentlemen Prefer Blondes*."

Nevertheless, this week Rowe goes on stage at the Open Air Theatre in Regent's Park in the stage version of the show, which was first seen on Broadway in 1949 with Carol Channing as the predatory but touchingly innocent heroine, Lorelei Lee. Rowe is the male lead, Gus Esmond Jr, heir to a button millionaire and faithful suitor to Lorelei. played in this production by Sara Crowe.

"The priority is good actors doing good work"

"I can't really say he's lovable," says Rowe. "because that's up to the audience to decide, but certainly he has no malice in him. He is a wide-eyed innocent and so eager to please Lorelei that she can do no wrong." As you listen to Rowe talking about his character in a gentle voice which still bears traces of the Lancashire accent of his childhood, it is tempting to draw parallels between the actor and his role. Rowe too seems like a person without malice, savouring the world with wide-eyed appreciation. He also admits that as a single man of 34, he would like to find his own Lorelei Lee. "I would like to get married but I want to be with someone because I want to be with them, not because I'm afraid of being on my own. I haven't found the right person yet."

There are undoubtedly times when the casting of a black actor in a "white" role can give the part an extra dimension. Warm laughter greeted Rowe's first *Carousel* entrance as Mr Snow, in appreciation of the contrast between his name and his appearance. And there is a darker moment in the current production of *Troilus and Cressida* when Thersites, whom Rowe plays as a deformed former soldier, is beaten by his master Ajax—



A gentleman with no preferences: Clive Rowe prepares for his newest role at the Open Air Theatre in Regent's Park

Foul play and no goals

Angels Theatre is a company, based in East London, committed to new writing that highlights working-class experiences and provides strong roles for women. Good aims, both of them, but I hope that for her next production Jo Carter will find a more dynamic piece of work than this, a first play by Sam Tilly that ambles so casually along that one wants to call the match over at the interval. The characters are rigidly conceived as types: the louse, the nerd, the speed freak, the swot and the doorman. All but the last remain within these defining bounds throughout. This exception is Lauren, married to the golden boy of English football—who also plays the field when off the pitch. His latest 17-year-old pick-up has just said her story to the tabloids, and the play starts with Lauren and Phil delivering their separate reactions in TV interviews.

The glib clichés of tabloid talk are neatly caught in these addresses to camera, and in Phil's case seem to have created the way he talks at all times. "I know I've contributed to your pain," he declares, gazing with bored eyes at his long-suffering wife, smugly confident that his boyish charm will win her over. All through the evening the play flashes to life whenever Georgia Fitch's Lauren speaks, because the banalities of wifely endurance issuing from her mouth are vividly contradicted by the agonised expression in her eyes. By the end we have been shown how a doorman can find the will to leap up and hit the man who has been treat-

JEREMY KINGSTON

Perfect for its period

All those wet Sunday afternoons spent in front of the television were not wasted. Anyone who has whittled away the hours watching Hollywood films from the Thirties should not miss this beautifully constructed exercise in period atmosphere. Manhattan's premier cabaret partnership, Mary Cleere Haran and Richard Rodney Bennett (now known to some New Yorkers as "Sir Bennett"), seem determined to make life difficult for reviewers. Having lavished praise on their last two London residencies, we now discover that their new Depression-era show—despite being crammed with some wilfully obscure Tin Pan Alley numbers—is even more satisfying. In their attention to detail, Haran and Bennett have proved themselves to be the Merchant-Ivory of popular song, with the advantage of a wickedly dry sense of humour. An immense amount of research has clearly gone into

CABARET

this programme, yet neither performer allows erudition to obscure the duty to entertain. Haran's wry commentary deftly splices together reminiscences of a Roman Catholic childhood dominated by gangster films and musicals with a formidable degree of insider knowledge. As clever as she is, Haran never did discover why her father had a passion for Deanna Durbin, but then nobody is perfect. Her singing is, however, She possesses an immaculate sense of dynamics, adding a subtle shading here, an accent there, and summoning up intense emotions without resorting to histrionics. That defiant Depression anthem, *42nd Street*, is taken at a wistful tempo, cleverly interpolated into a sequence in which Haran portrays a hard-bitten speakeasy hostess. Her gift for mimicry has never been better deployed, Ruby Keeler and Ginger Rogers joining the list of VIPs who pass before our eyes. Bennett's piano playing, spiced with just the right amount of uptown blues, is woven delicately into the fabric. He throws a bar or two of *Buddy, Can You Spare A Dime?* into another slice of social realism, *My Forgotten Man*. Busby Berkeley dressed up this *Gold Diggers* showstopper with endless columns of silhouetted dough boys marching into a hopeless future. Haran and Bennett achieve the same emotional impact with minimal resources. A reminder, in case anyone needed it, that there is a poignant edge to all that jaunty escapism. Their residency, which includes a genial late set devoted to the Gerstwins, continues for the rest of the month.

CLIVE DAVIS

This week in THE TIMES



DANCE
Sylvie Guillem dances the lead in the Royal Ballet's *Manon at the Coliseum*
OPENS: Tonight
REVIEW: Wednesday



MUSIC
A new piece by Julian Anderson is premiered at the Proms
CONCERT: Tomorrow
REVIEW: Thursday



THEATRE
Sara Crowe stars in *Gentlemen Prefer Blondes* in Regent's Park
OPENS: Thursday
REVIEW: Monday



FILM
Kenneth Branagh joins Robert Altman for *The Gingerbread Man*
RELEASED: Friday
REVIEW: Thursday

PLUS: A glut of world music at the Womad Festival this weekend

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Careers that begin in the wrong key

Barry Douglas asks whether piano competitions really encourage talent

Next week a group of the most talented and dedicated young pianists in the world will be travelling to northern Spain to compete in the Santander International Piano Competition. For 25 years this coastal city, bathed in Cantabrian sunlight and pounded by the waves of the Bay of Biscay, has played host to young musicians dreaming of an international performing career.

Eighteen years ago I was among that group of young hopefuls. It was Santander that gave me my baptism into the complex phenomenon of the piano competition. Encouraged by winning a silver medal there, I travelled on to Fort Worth in Texas for the Cliburn Competition and finally, in 1986, to Moscow for the Tchaikovsky Competition from which I emerged with the gold medal.

But does a competitive forum encourage people to produce the best they are capable of? Music and competitions have always been difficult bedfellows. Although modern sporting events have an important advantage in their ability, through television and electronic measuring instruments, to remain generally transparent and objective, the influence of non-sporting elements has

self-renewal and inspiration. Why have competitions proliferated then? What is their primary purpose? To search for the pianist of tomorrow? The young, highly talented artist who could probably shoulder a career at his chosen pace often finds it difficult to weather the post-competition period. Nor has the sorry heap of burnt-out and forgotten talent seemed to affect the public's fascination. The orchestra or recital presenter will always gain some kudos from having the XXX international competition gold medal winner in his next season. So young pianists will continue to jump into the lions' den, hoping for a boost to their careers. The servicing and management of these careers will then provide work and salaries for a long list of publicists and agents.

Is there an alternative to competitions for discovering the talent of tomorrow? One realistic and admirable solution is that which Santander has adopted. It consists of a two-pronged programme. First is the competition, which has grown over the years from a small European forum with six concerts for the medalist to a veritably supercharged event with hundreds of international concert invitations for all the winners.

He would always award either full marks or zero

Equally important, Santander has the educational aspect. Scholarships are available for prospective entrants, so that even if they don't place in the competition, they have the chance to study with eminent teachers in a conservatory environment in Madrid, and their artistic and professional activities are closely followed by the competition's founder, Paloma O'Shea.

This is certainly an idea worth emulating. The progress of a musician's career in his sensitive, formative years can often be harmed or destroyed by greedy, self-promoting managers or competition administrators. Intelligent and careful guidance is invaluable to a young musician taking his first steps in a world which can often appear confusing or even hostile.

Two skins, one sensitive for the nourishment of one's artistry, the other thick for the defence of one's soul, are needed to be a performer. Only in rare instances is this understood. In my own case, this realisation and conscious development have taken years.

Paloma O'Shea and the Santander International Piano Competition teams are to be applauded for acting in a more caring and intelligent way. While the advantages and disadvantages of competition will continue to excite debate, the move in Spain towards a more equitable and human solution can only be a step in the right direction.

The author was the winner of the Tchaikovsky International Piano Competition, 1986.

For the healthy, cranky, contented folk of Middle America, politics have begun to seem irrelevant

A taste of apathy in mom's apple pie

Sun Valley, Idaho, is a leisure resort built in the late 1930s by the Union Pacific Railroad, under the influence of Averell Harriman. On September 19, 1939, in the month of Germany's attack on Poland which started the Second World War, Ernest Hemingway booked into suite 206 of Sun Valley Lodge, accompanied by Martha Gellhorn, who later became his wife.

In that suite he finished *For Whom The Bell Tolls*. The Sun Valley resort is a part of modern US history; last week The News Corporation, parent company of *The Times*, held a management conference there, which enabled me to judge the mood of a part of the States I have not visited before.

In the aircraft which took us out west, I found myself sitting next to Ellen Levine, who is the Editor-in-Chief of Hearst's *Good Housekeeping*. That magazine remains an American phenomenon; it has more than 20 million readers; Miss Levine is one of the most respected figures in the magazine world. We discussed the changes taking place in modern American life. She listed the chief interests of her readers in order of significance.

The first three interests of this very large group of American women were the "quest for spirituality", "celebrity" and "health". American women are not interested in unpleasant celebrities as such; they want to like their celebrities and to feel that they belong to the community. Sun Valley is itself a shrine to the importance that modern America gives to a healthy lifestyle. People go there to live because they enjoy the outdoor life: clean, fast-flowing rivers, long hikes in the mountains, bicycle trails. These Americans form a self-selecting community, backed with a good deal of money but also with an idealism about their community and a commitment to local service which is

unselfconscious. The way of life is traditional to America, but the emphasis on physical fitness is modern.

This new America seems to have lost interest in politics to a degree I had not previously experienced. While I was in Idaho, *The New York Times* published an interview with George Bush Jr, who is the Governor of Texas. He is currently the front-runner for the Republican nomination for President in 2000. For the potential leader of an opposition campaign, the interview he gave was amazingly non-political, but he is probably correct in his judgment of the American mood. There now seem to be no great political issues exciting the American people, and politics is largely discussed in terms of celebrity, when it is discussed at all.

There are, of course, buffs who are fascinated by every detail of the political process, but outside Washington they form a specialised minority.

This apathy about politics owes something to the paradox of President Clinton. Americans are mostly content with their President and give him high approval ratings in the job, but they do not admire him personally or in terms of character. His period of office has been one of general prosperity, perhaps the longest period of prosperity the United States has enjoyed in the 20th century. He has, at least, done nothing which interrupted the boom. He has an unflinching gift

for the appropriate response on camera, pitched to this American mood. Yet all the scandals have tainted his personal reputation. As an American once said to me: "I have voted twice to put him in the White House, but I'm not sure I would want to invite him into my own home."

Hardly anyone sees Bill Clinton as a great President, even though he does the job in a way that is professionally satisfactory. Naturally this contrast makes Americans think of

William Rees-Mogg

him in terms of celebrity and scandal, rather than of policies or ideals.

This mood will not last for ever, because no boom lasts for ever. Sooner or later the Greenspan/Clinton boom will come to an end. The economic cycle will turn down, the stock market will suffer a correction, perhaps even a crash, life will become much less easy. When this happens, the American people may turn on their politicians. But this is all still to come and the momentum of confidence is so great that the next recession is probably still some way off.

This momentum has now spread into almost all asset values, including the housing market. It is all rather reminiscent of the British boom of the late 1980s, and it feels good to the American people so long as it lasts. The quest for spirituality is nevertheless a significant part of the American mood. Americans feel a need for renewal which takes many forms. It is exploited by a wide variety of self-appointed spiritual leaders. Gurus with a glib familiarity with Eastern religions, "channellers" who talk to the spirits, the whole New Age gang. Yet even in all of this, with its extraordinary credulity, there is some real religious element. There is also new support for the traditional Churches of America, both Protestant and Catholic. Millions of Americans practise their religion in deep good faith.

In some ways American society is simpler than our own; it is not afraid of an open goodwill, a natural friendliness which is remote from the sophistication of London, Paris or indeed New York. One has to remember that *Good Housekeeping* is representative of an American culture far broader than that of *The New Yorker*. Middle America does not wear a mask. It can therefore pursue spiritual development in a direct way, which may sometimes be credulous but is not merely sceptical. It pursues spiritual health in the same straightforward way that it pursues physical

health. It believes in a different combination of individualism and community from the European norm; America can be much more individualist, but can also have a stronger sense of sharing. Charitable giving on a colossal scale is an American virtue. Much of this social strength depends on the behaviour and attitudes of American women, who hold their society together.

In the current world this is the most successful and the most powerful of human societies. Americans do not spend a lot of time thinking about defence, but the United States is the only surviving defence superpower, with unmatched technology. In economic terms, America has dominated the mass industry of the 20th century, and has now established an equal or even more commanding lead in the information age. The United States has often looked as though it might fail to solve its problems, or might be overtaken. In this century it has proved far more resilient than its critics, its competitors or its enemies.

Yet one feels a certain anxiety about the growth of political apathy. It is worrying to see the United States moving into a post-political mood, in which a majority of people may not even bother to vote. It is strange to see how Americans have become political spectators, as though Washington were a mere soap opera. Of course, many Americans do feel both responsible and disturbed. Constitutional democracy made America great. As Americans jog along the trails in the Rockies, one could wish that they cared for the health of their democracy as they care for their physical and spiritual wellbeing. Democracy will never be safe if Americans start to believe that politics is such a dirty business that it is best left to dirty people.

Time to clean out the Cabinet

Blair's reshuffle will be crucial to the success of new Labour, says Peter Riddell

Tony Blair has always been a keen student of Margaret Thatcher's statecraft. The dominance of Thatcherism was only firmly established after her September 1981 reshuffle when she sacked several of the old "weeds" and promoted allies such as Nigel Lawson and Norman Tebbit. Despite his high personal ratings, Mr Blair faces a similar challenge now. Blairites are in a minority in the Cabinet and the coming reshuffle is his chance to change the balance.

The precarious hold of the Blairite new Labour approach has been vividly illustrated this month. The overblown lobbying/cronyism row has seen the re-emergence of public and media sniping against Peter Mandelson, one of the central architects of Blairism. This has come from both the disillusioned old Left and the superannuated old Labour Right. Mr Mandelson has been an easy target for those who dislike Blairism and the attacks have shown that old Labour is slumbering, not dead.

As significant has been the presentation of last week's spending review. Even putting to one side the worries of many economists that the overall increase in spending may be too large, the emphasis was all wrong. The decision to add together spending increases over three years was not only grossly misleading, but was bound to lead to "spend, spend" headlines. Heaven knows what Gordon Brown thought he was doing: after all, he has spent years arguing that what matters is wise spending, not more spending. Admittedly, the review does link



spending to the achievement of various performance targets. The new Labour themes of "money for modernisation" and reform are there, but that is not what Labour MPs and the public hear. The old Labour message of big spending risks raising expectations, particularly among public sector unions over wage increases. The Government would have done better to have emphasised reforms and conditions and offered a more modest, and honest, view of the increases. Some Blairites accept these criticisms. But too many ministers have been indulging in competitive boasting about increases. That encourages the type of vacuous populism that

RIDDELL ON MONDAY

Frank Dobson offered in his NHS statement on Thursday. All this is central to the reshuffle. By creating a range of new output measures and by linking extra money to reforms, the review places more responsibility on departments. The Treasury will monitor implementation of public service agreements, but ministers will have to deliver and will have more discretion over the allocation of their budgets and over pay bargaining. So having the right ministers in place is vital. The present team is very patchy.

Mr Blair has suffered from Labour's daft rule that he must pick his Cabinet from the previously elected Shadow Cabinet. But such elections are no guide to subsequent performance. At the last contest in July 1996, Mr Brown, Jack Straw and David Blunkett, three undoubted successes as ministers, were in the bottom third of those elected. By contrast, the top third included Margaret Beckett, at best a lacklustre performer, and Gavin Strang, who would be in any civil servant's list of the ten worst Cabinet ministers of the past generation. Labour is paying the price for its long years in opposition and the upheavals of the early 1980s which

drove many talented people away from Labour and deterred others from wanting to become MPs. Indeed, the unelected ministers in the Lords are often better than their elected colleagues in the Commons. Aside from a few obvious stars, the middle and lower ranks of ministers, and the vast backbench army behind, are depressingly second-rate with little apparent potential.

When Harold Wilson formed his first Government in 1964, Roy Jenkins and Anthony Crosland were Ministers of State, though both joined the Cabinet within 15 months. There are no equivalents today.

So Mr Blair has a limited pool of talent from which to choose, and there is a danger of fashion and patronage playing too large a part. That explains why both Ann Taylor and Jack Cunningham are out of favour. Mr Blair's priority is to find ministers capable of implementing public service reforms. That, in practice, means a willingness to confront and see off public sector unions in the drive for higher standards, as David Blunkett and Stephen Byers have been willing to do over schools and teachers' pay. While Mr Byers and Alan Milburn at Health are often tipped for promotion, their current roles are as important for the Government's success as those of many Cabinet ministers.

Similarly, it is vital to find someone hard-headed to take over from Dr Strang at Transport, not only to implement today's White Paper but to secure early action over London Underground.

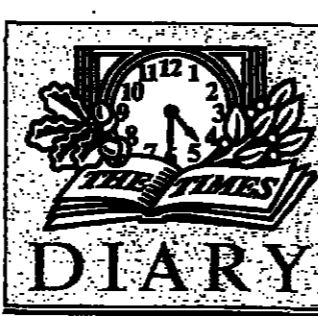
Mr Blair needs to focus on these priorities rather than to be distracted by the endlessly fascinating Westminster game of what happens to Mr Mandelson and to Harriet Harman. Baroness Thatcher wrote in her memoirs about the 1981 reshuffle: "If the goals I had set out in Opposition were to be achieved, they must be reaffirmed and fought for by a new Cabinet." Similarly, now, what is at stake is not just the fate of a few ministers but the long-term success of Blairism — and whether new Labour really has banished old Labour.

Final revenge

JOHN MAJOR is to take his revenge on the "bastards". Despite his apparent dignity in defeat, the former Prime Minister is said still to be seething about the colleagues he feels so badly let him down during his administration and plans to get his own back in his memoirs. "John is spitting with anger," says a friend. "He is looking forward to getting even with the people he thinks betrayed him."

Although friends have urged him to move on, Major will use his book to tear into former colleagues such as Norman Lamont and John Redwood. He will disclose how disloyal to him and the party he believes they were, and what part they played in last year's Tory humiliation. To help him, Major will be employing the talents of Anthony Seldon, the academic.

"It will be a truthful account of his time in government," says a flunkie. "He will be taking several weeks' holiday over the summer to work on it." But despite the promise of an entertaining read, his earning power as a writer seems to have dimmed. As the publishing world prepares for a string of whodunnits from the likes of Lord Hurd of Westwell and Michael Heseltine, I am told Major has agreed to put pen to paper for £400,000, rather than the £600,000 first mooted.



William Oddie, the reactionary journalist who is to become Editor of the *Catholic Herald*, truly understands the Roman way. In an open letter, it accuses the former Anglican priest, who converted to Catholicism in 1991, of being obsessed with fighting the last battle. "The rage that you habitually directed at things Anglican you did not like was transferred overnight to targets within the Catholic Church, disregarding the fact that the situation in the Church you were joining was very different from the one you had left. You hit the ground running, but you did so without map or compass... I have heard it said again and again in informed Catholic circles that 'Oddie doesn't understand the Catholic mind' or 'he thinks he is still dealing with the Church of England'." I hope the world of Catholic journalism does not turn too nasty.

JOHN PRESCOTT'S attempt to seize the Duke of Edinburgh's mantle for Guffes gathers pace. Admittedly, the review does link

ing a meeting of dull local government types, the Deputy Prime Minister attempted to praise Hilary Armstrong, a minister in his own department. Unfortunately, her name came out instead as Hilary Wainwright — the editor of *Red Pepper*, the leftie magazine.

Knives out
BEHIND-THE-SCENES recriminations at the Royal Opera House continue to provide far more entertainment than anything put on the stage for years. When addressing Gerald Kaufman and his parliamentary select committee, Lord Chadlington, replaced as chairman late last year, blamed difficulties under his reign on financial chaos he had inherited. Yet in tonight's *Trouble at the House*, Keith Cooper's television follow-up to *The House*, Sir Jeremy Isaacs, who claims he was secretly forced to resign last year as general director, asks a pertinent question: if things were so bad, why did the good lord pay a bonus to the assistant financial director during his brief period in charge?

MICHAEL MEACHER'S attempt to show support for an ex-fest in Austria at the weekend failed to rise to the occasion. The Environment Minister joined his counterparts from the European Union on a platform to watch the release of balloons, each carrying a member's flag. As the inflatable balloons soared into the sky, however, one

failed to fly despite the proddings of small children. Organisers, who retrieved the balloon, found it carried the Union Jack.

Angry view
HAMPTSTEAD types are fighting once again to defend John Constable's heritage. Residents are considering appealing to the High Court to overturn a decision by Camden council to allow a house extension that will obscure the view from the painter's home. Constable (pictured), who lived in the Well Walk from 1827 until his death ten years later, described the panorama as "unsurpassed in Europe" and made numerous paintings and sketches of the vista. Arnabel Obholzer, an artist who lives in the house, says: "It is worse



than insensitive. They are allowing what remains of a material monument to Constable to be spoiled." John Constable, the painter's great-grandson, has joined the outrage and described the decision as "a philistine act". But the householders whose extension is proving so unpopular argue that Constable's view was ruined long ago with the building of the Royal Free Hospital. They have a point.

THE vulgarity of modern life has been banished by the Earl of March. For his revival of motor racing at Goodwood in September, he is insisting that spectators dress in Sixties garb (pre-Flower Power). In particular "anoraks, T-shirts and baseball caps will not be allowed". To complete the historical feel, only pre-1966 cars will be allowed to race. Who says the aristocracy has not adjusted to modern life?

Tie trouble
EVEN the most solid marriages have the occasional sticky patch. Neil Hamilton, the disgraced former Tory minister, and Christine, his wife, have had words about his favourite bow-tie, a red one with bright blue spots which he wore on *Have I Got News For You*. Christine took it upon herself to donate it to a charity auction. It raised £250. "Neil was pretty reluctant about me sending it off but I explained that I had already agreed to," says Christine. "I pacified him



by promising to get him another one exactly the same. But we have been up and down Jermyn Street and the only one with the right colours had little dots, not spots. Its loss has caused a bit of a strain."

MICHAEL PALIN has declared war on traffic wardens. The former Monty Python star believes that they can be beaten only with cunning when he parks outside his London home. "I haven't got to the stage where I save a space with a traffic cone," he says. "But you have to be scheming. It's exciting, it's like war, you find ways to survive."

JASPER GERARD

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DON'T BE VAGUE

Hague's attack on government spending needs clarity

Three weeks ago, the Conservative Party was in the doldrums. Still sullied by sleaze, divided over Europe, its leader in hospital, it lay becalmed in the political sea. The Government, with its large majority and well-oiled media machine, was steaming so far ahead that it was a spot on the horizon. Three weeks later, after "cash for access" and the Comprehensive Spending Review, William Hague at last has wind in his sails. But to close the distance will take both time and expert navigation.

No doctor could have prescribed Mr Hague a better cure for his sinusitis than the exposure of Labour advisers' shady dealings with lobbyists. Mr Hague exploited this to the full; his hope must be that Labour "cronyism" displaces Conservative "sleaze" in the public mind. After the Ecclestone affair, Geoffrey Robinson's personal finances and the bungling of the Sierra Leone matter, Tony Blair's "purer than pure" image is somewhat shop-soiled. Mr Hague was right earlier to apologise for past Tory mistakes; but, as he showed at Prime Minister's Questions, there is no substitute for making Labour taste some of its own medicine. Ridicule, sarcasm and searching questions left Mr Blair blustering, Mr Hague grinning. Set, if not match, to Mr Hague.

While extravagant boasts about access to power provided Mr Hague with one target, extravagant spending plans provided another. Last week's spending review, promising £40 billion extra spending for health and education, failed to show how the Government would curb the bills of "social failure" (social security and unemployment) to pay for it all. Prudence appeared to have given way to profligacy. Stripped of the straitjacket of Tory spending plans, new Labour could be presented as finally showing its true colours, which appeared remarkably familiar: spend, spend, spend.

This should have been an easy target to attack. If social security spending is going to

increase, not decrease, where will Labour find £40 billion? Was it elected to increase the size of the State and the powers of Whitehall? Rather than asking these questions, the Conservatives' attack was confused. Some Shadow Ministers did interrogate the Government about where the money would come from, but others accused it of not spending enough. No one dared to question the wisdom of spending billions more on health and education; instead, a bizarre war of figures broke out. On this territory, the Government has a good chance of winning; nothing is as spinnable as statistics. Faced with a wide-open goal, the Conservatives' shots hit the crossbar.

Although Mr Hague has vowed to "listen" to Britain, he should not be deaf to Tory principles. The Conservative election manifesto claimed it was "the only party that can cut taxes because we are the only party which is serious about controlling public spending". Mr Hague must not forget this, even if it means adopting tough and potentially unpopular positions. At Question Time last week, the Prime Minister challenged Mr Hague to say which benefits he would cut. Mr Hague should pick up this gauntlet, and "think the unthinkable" about the welfare state — something the Prime Minister promised but has failed to deliver.

Before last Tuesday, the main dividing lines between Mr Hague and Mr Blair were the single currency and the constitution. The Comprehensive Spending Review has, at last, given Mr Hague a chance to differentiate his party's economic philosophy from the Government's — lower spending and less government, versus higher spending and more government. If Mr Hague attacks higher government spending, he should say what he would cut. If he says what he is against, he should also say what he is for. Only then will he and his party escape from the doldrums and be solidly back in the political race.

TURKIC TURMOIL

The lack of democracy breeds rebellion in Central Asia

Cholpon-Ata, in Kyrgyzstan, is a beautiful but surreal place, a beach resort thousands of miles from the nearest sea, 6,000 ft above sea level, on a lake where tourists paddle pedalos against the snow-peaked backdrop of some of Asia's highest mountains. Leaders of the Central Asian Economic Community's four member states (Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan) have been meeting there to take the waters, attend the wedding of the son of Askar Akayev, the Kyrgyz President, to the daughter of Kazakhstan's President Nursultan Nazarbayev and pull a little wool over international eyes. The purpose of the summit, thwarted by Uzbek President Islam Karimov's absence, was to sign a security agreement to counter the perceived Islamic threat to the CAEC. Yet though two of the four share a border with mostly-Taliban-ruled Afghanistan, the threat of Islamic fundamentalism is too easily invoked by all four leaders against all political opposition.

Tajikistan is trying to emerge from a civil war between the Government and a professedly Islamic opposition. But the theological grip of the Sunni Islamic Resistance Party and the Ismaili Lali Badakhshan is elastic; the conflict has been more about regional and clan rivalries than religion. It suits both Russia, which maintains a sizeable military presence there as combatants and UN-monitored peacekeepers, and Tajikistan's illiberal Government, to present the latter's enemies in fundamentalist terms. Uzbekistan is conducting a series of show trials. The accused are self-confessed Islamist rebels from the fundamentalist hotbed of the

Ferghana Valley. But they are on trial for crimes (murders of policemen) that bear the marks of the mafia, not Islamists, and could have been motivated by clan or money disputes rather than religious fanaticism.

In April, Kyrgyz police arrested ethnic Uighur exiles from China's troubled western Xinjiang, which borders on three CAEC states, and announced them to be Islamists. But the Uighurs' armed opposition to Chinese rule, which even a million Xinjiang-based troops have been unable to quell, is secular in aim; and the arrests (and convenient categorisation) immediately preceded President Akayev's visit to Beijing, where extensive trade deals were signed. As for Kazakhstan, it is more worried about keeping its Slavic majority — and Russia — happy, than about Islamist sedition in a nominally Muslim Turkic population.

The real problem in the CAEC is that only one of its members, Kyrgyzstan, is close to being a genuine pluralistic democracy. Tajikistan and Uzbekistan are led by former pillars of the ex-Soviet Union who see opposition as tantamount to rebellion. Mr Nazarbayev, though carefully walking the Russian tightrope — recently moving the Kazakh capital north to the Russian-inhabited steppes — still lacks the confidence to lift all restrictions on the media or political activity. Only Mr Akayev, the IMF's regional darling, has enough legitimacy to resolve clan and regional differences. It is unwise for CAEC leaders to brand all dissent with the label of Islamic sedition. The lack of democratic pressure-valves risks turning political opposition into armed rebellion.

POP GOES THE BBC

Pop culture is never likely to be the BBC's forte

The BBC has an uneasy life juggling its role as the world's most successful public service broadcaster and its need to stay firmly in the game in an environment of exponentially increasing choice of news, entertainment and sports programmes. Under Sir John Birt, it has become an aggressive commercial operator. It has also secured above-inflation increases in the licence fee, which will break the £100 barrier next year, and is now pressing the Government to agree to further rises which would take the fee to £110 by 2002.

On both counts, of cost and apparent commercialisation, it faces, and ought to face, greater pressure to set out just what constitutes its comparative advantage in a crowded multimedia, multichannel world. The BBC's stock method of justifying the licence fee has been to push for wider audience share. That is the purpose behind the fighting fund for BBC Radio it will announce later this week. Although the corporation claims that the £5 million in efficiency savings its five national networks will be told to produce will pay for more live events and high-profile presenters across the board, it is no secret that the main target of this fighting fund is the stiff commercial competition to Radio 1 and Radio 5 Live.

The buzz-words are "youth programming" and celebrity DJs. BBC managers, who nurture something akin to an obsession with young radio listeners, murmur that the pop end of its programming is the necessary bait, if these youngsters are to be lured in later life to Radio 3 and 4. This high-minded reasoning masks a more practical concern:

Radio 1's audience has been plummeting faster than Britpop, losing out to Virgin Radio. The BBC is desperate to reverse this — so desperate that it seems not to have paused to ask itself whether this is where its priorities for radio ought to lie.

Audience research might suggest otherwise. Radio audiences are growing — and growing most in Radio 2 and 4, the networks most obviously unlike commercial stations. Even in terms of those tuning in per week, Radio 1 is not, at 9.7 million listeners, much ahead of Radio 4's 8.2 million. In audience share, which shows how long people listen to a station, Radio 1 is not only far outstripped by Radio 2 but lags behind Radio 4 as well. These figures predate the popularising overhaul of Radio 4 programmes. If it turns out that people preferred what they had before, BBC controllers should listen.

Commercial stations are always likely to attract teen listeners more than any "public service" channel — the brand image is a turn-off to a naturally rebellious age-group. If Sir John wants to catch listeners young, he might do better to pump money and publicity into Radio 4's children's radio, on which the BBC has all but thrown in the towel. Chris Smith, the Culture Secretary, pointedly observed last month that the BBC "is in business to be a public broadcaster, not to be in business", and that its "benchmark of quality" is more than ever, important in a multichannel world. That does not sound like a Government keen to sanction a still higher licence fee for the sake of hiring celebrity names for Radio 1.

'Chaotic' system of asylum appeals

From the Director of the Refugee Legal Centre

Sir, The Government's consultation paper on the review of asylum and immigration appeals (report and leading article, July 14) is the culmination of an interdepartmental review established almost two years ago, and yet it is so brief and ill-thought-through that meaningful conclusions will be impossible.

We do not believe that the few ideas it contains will have a significant impact on the backlog of asylum cases, and some will be counter-productive. Neither do we accept the Home Office's explanation for the cause of the backlog.

The Home Secretary said that asylum-seekers are "deliberately abusing the system by spinning out a case for so long that it sometimes becomes very difficult or impractical to remove them from the country". The fact is that delays in the determination process are frequently caused by the Home Office, which often takes over five years to make an initial decision on a case.

As regards delays in the hearing of appeals, there is little evidence of the abuse claimed by the Home Secretary. Last year 415 appeals were adjourned at our request, 338 at the request of the Home Office and 769 appeals were adjourned by the court.

Appellants have no incentive whatsoever to delay the determination process. Indeed, most of our appeals clients are not entitled to any welfare benefits and strive to survive as best they can in poor accommodation with food vouchers issued by the local authorities.

The Home Office Minister has said that the asylum determination procedure is a shambles. It was to have been hoped that the consultation paper would have demonstrated a more reasoned and intelligent response to this dire situation.

Yours faithfully,
BARRY STOYLE,
Director,
Refugee Legal Centre,
Sussex House,
39-45 Bermondsey Street, SE1 3XF,
July 14.

From Mr Alasdair Mackenzie

Sir, Your article on the problems facing women seeking refuge from rape and sexual torture in their countries of origin (Law, July 14) is a fine illustration of why the Home Secretary is wrong to blame asylum-seekers and their representatives for the chaos in the asylum appeals system. The fault lies with successive governments.

Refugee organisations have been advocating changes to the appeals system for years, and the failure of both the 1993 and the 1996 Acts to introduce constructive reform is largely attributable to the decision of the then Government to take note of their views. Jack Straw's commitment to consult those familiar with the field is therefore welcome.

However, no increase in efficiency is going to be possible without a commensurate increase in fairness. The system is strikingly bad at identifying meritorious cases at an early stage. Reputable expert legal practitioners manage to overturn at least a third of initial refusals. Those who are unrepresented, or badly represented, have virtually no chance of success, regardless of the merits of their cases.

The key, therefore, is to improve the initial decision-making and the availability of expert legal advice, both through the legal aid system and in the voluntary sector. If this is not done, the Government's new proposals will go the same way as the last two sets of changes: chaos, followed by yet more legislation.

Yours faithfully,
ALASDAIR MACKENZIE
(Co-ordinator),
Asylum Aid,
244a Upper Street, Islington, N1 1RU,
July 14.

Sandhurst training

From Dr A. P. Hall

Sir, I am saddened by the death (report, July 16) of one officer cadet at the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst and the collapse of six others with heat exhaustion after lengthy marches.

As an English emigrant doctor I served in the US Army in Vietnam and was wounded during an enemy attack on our hospital in August 1969. We were attacked a second time a month later. I became combat-ready during six weeks' basic training at Fort Sam Houston, Texas, but that did not involve eight-mile marches, which can cause heat exhaustion.

I believe that the military can learn how to kill the enemy efficiently without endangering the health of the troops in endurance tests, mountain climbing, etc. Expensive training programmes, plus intensive care when required, cost British taxpayers money that in my opinion would be better spent on improving the National Health Service.

Yours faithfully,
ANTHONY HALL
(Civilian consultant physician,
Gulf Veterans Medical Assessment Programme, Ministry of Defence),
5 Manland Avenue,
Harpden, Hertfordshire AL5 4RE,
July 19.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9KN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Benefits from investment in science

From Dr S. F. Campbell

Sir, The Chancellor of the Exchequer has confirmed (report, July 15) that an extra £1.1 billion will be invested in scientific research and training over the next three years.

The steady erosion of government investment over the past decade has meant that university research centres have been significantly under-resourced. We hope that this investment will help the UK to reclaim its former position on the international science stage.

We believe our experience at Pfizer illustrates the beneficial impact of investment in science. Our R&D staff has increased from 800 in 1988 to nearly 2,000 this year; many have graduate and postgraduate qualifications. Our research groups have discovered and developed several drugs which are world leaders in their therapeutic class and make significant contributions to the UK balance of payments.

We welcome the Government's initiative.

Yours faithfully,
S. F. CAMPBELL,
(Senior Vice-President),
Pfizer Central Research,
Ramsgate Road,
Sandwich, Kent CT13 9NU,
July 17.

German election

From Mr M. G. Proom

Sir, David Marsh (article, "Will a euro minus Kohl mean chaos?", July 13) says that Herr Gerhard Schröder, SPD candidate for Chancellor in the German general elections in September, "appears more in touch with economic realities" than Helmut Kohl.

It is true that Herr Schröder sits on the supervisory board of Volkswagen. He does so merely in his capacity as Minister, President of the State of Lower Saxony, rather than for any special business skills.

It certainly is true that Herr Schröder would like everyone to believe that he is a friend to business. Indeed, only last week he proclaimed that the present noticeable upturn in the German economy was due solely to the general expectation of a change of government after the general election. This statement was treated with general derision in the German press.

It has been the policies of the present CDU Government led by Herr Kohl in liberalising corporate tax-

ation, abolishing some business taxes and in relaxing the previous draconian employment legislation that are now being reflected in an economic upturn in Germany, rather than the eager expectation of an SPD-led government.

Die Welt on Saturday was particularly scathing about the "Arroganz" of Herr Schröder's remarks. The newspaper points out that Herr Schröder has persistently voted in the SPD-dominated Bundestag (the Upper House) over the past 18 months to block the Government's "Jahrhundert Projekt" (century project). This is devised to introduce sweeping economic reforms, including swingeing reductions in corporate and personal taxation and further relaxations in the labour markets.

Yours faithfully,
M. G. PROOM
(Partner),
ITOC International
(European Corporate Finance
Consultancy),
Health Lane House, Health Lane,
Godalming, Surrey GU7 1UN,
July 15.

Fickle judgment on joyless summer

From Dr Julian Mayes

Sir, How appropriate that you should have published the letter from Lord Jenkins of Hillhead about this "dismal" summer on St Swithin's Day (July 15).

Counting the number of days having a maximum temperature of at least 20C (68F), over ten hours of sunshine, no daytime rainfall, and only light breezes, provides an approximation to the measure of fine summer days that Lord Jenkins calls for.

A quick calculation for each of the last 30 summers in the Swansea area, for example, reveals a variation from only three such days in 1986 to as many as 56 in 1976. The total of eight such days this year is quite close to the average for the first half of the summer, despite an exceptionally wet June.

No single set of statistics can portray a definitive verdict on the quality of summer weather — perception of a season's weather is highly subjective and individual preferences must always be taken account of (letters, July 18).

Our meteorological memories are notoriously fickle and the scorn poured on the weather of this summer (so far) highlights the degree to which we have been acclimatised to the increasingly frequent warm, sunny and mostly dry summers in recent years, not to mention the growing evidence of climatic warming since the 1980s, both globally and in the British Isles.

To achieve a balanced perspective we need to accept that our highly variable summer climate will always affect outdoor pursuits (such as the al fresco dining cited by Lord Jenkins) and to distinguish these events from longer-term trends and their as yet more subtle effects.

Yours faithfully,
JULIAN MAYES
(Geography Programme Convener),
Roehampton Institute London,
Whitlands College Campus,
West Hill, SW15 3SN,
July 19.

From Miss Barbara Clapham

Sir, The weather does not change. On June 30, 1879, Tenmynson wrote: Midnight — and joyless June gone by. And from the deluged part The cuckoo of a worse July Is calling through the dark (*Prejatory Poem to my Brother's Sonnets*).

Yours faithfully,
BARBARA CLAPHAM,
60 Courtfield Gardens, SW5 0NF,
July 18.

From Mr Roger Stiles

Sir, I report, with dismay, that we have not yet removed the cover from the swimming pool, but we have received in the post the first Christmas catalogue.

Yours,
ROGER STILES,
Field Place,
Dunstable, Bedfordshire,
Surrey GU8 4LR,
July 18.

From Mr G. St. J. Cudmore

Sir, I am astonished that Lord Jenkins of Hillhead is unaware of the surest consistent criterion for the historical comparison of a summer: the quality of its clouds.

Yours etc,
G. ST. J. CUDMORE,
31 Meadowgate,
Bourne, Lincolnshire PE10 9EY,
July 15.

Leaving no trace

From Mr David Hawgood

Sir, Mr Peter Lincoln is reported (article, *Weekend*, July 11) as being the first person to climb every mountain over 2,000ft in Scotland, thereby raising £10,000 for charity.

Unfortunately he has spoilt his achievement for me by leaving "plastic-coated cards at some of the more remote peaks as proof that he had ascended them". In his view, he left proof in my view, he left litter.

As a member of the John Muir Trust I spent part of my holiday removing litter from its property on the Island of Skye. I find it galling that, while I was clearing years-old plastic from one part of Scotland, Mr Lincoln was leaving plastic litter elsewhere.

To anyone visiting wild places: please leave no trace of your passing.

Regards,
DAVID HAWGOOD,
26 Cloister Road, Acton, W3 0DE,
david_hawgood@compuserve.com
July 14.

Late delivery

From Mr Brian North Lee

Sir, Yet another pizza advert came through the letterbox yesterday. It didn't state if the usual home delivery within half an hour applied, but I am sceptical, for the words "Kick off to France '98" and "Good luck England" accompanied illustrations of 11 footballs.

It might seem unkind to point out to the company that it's all over, but they could be well worth patronising if they've been too busy delivering pizzas to notice.

Yours sincerely,
BRIAN NORTH LEE,
32 Barrowgate Road, W4 4QY,
July 17.

TV comedy

From Mr Stephen Gallagher

Sir, John Birt's suggestion ("BBC comedy failures are no laughing matter", July 16) that British sitcom writers can seem less productive or committed than their American counterparts demands a certain qualification.

American sitcoms are team-written and their writers receive producer credits and status. All of them know that if their show is a hit, they'll become millionaires.

British attempts at team writing have tended to treat writers as piece-workers with no creative control and no stake in the product, so it should be no surprise that they neither rush to embrace the system nor flourish within it.

Of course British writers are more interested in their own, less nakedly commercial, solo projects. British television has neither the machinery nor the markets to make a success of anything else.

Sincerely,
STEPHEN GALLAGHER,
c/o Aitken Stone & Wylie,
29 Fernshaw Road, SW10 0TT,
July 17.

Rash decisions?

From Mr Alan Thomas

Sir, Every now and then a rash of yellow paint breaks out hereabouts. It seems to mark potholes and other defects in the road surface.

In time the paint is worn away by the weather and traffic. Nothing more happens until another rash breaks out; and so it goes on.

Do you think that the local authority has a considerable surplus of yellow paint and does not quite know what to do with it?

Yours sincerely,
ALAN THOMAS,
30 Templemans Way, Southwell,
Nottinghamshire NG25 0EF,
July 17.

Brinnin's companion

From Mrs Penelope Mortimer

Sir, Your obituary of John Malcolm Brinnin (July 15) states that his long-term companion, Bill Read, survives him.

Bill in fact died in 1978; after his death Brinnin sold their home in Duxbury, Massachusetts, and eventually settled in the Virgin Islands.

Yours sincerely,
PENELOPE MORTIMER,
19 St Gabriel's Road, NW2 4DS,
July 16.



COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
July 18: The Duke of York today visited Cornwall...

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
July 18: The Prince of Wales today visited Cornwall...

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
July 19: The Duke and Duchess of Gloucester...

KENSINGTON PALACE
July 18: The Duke and Duchess of Gloucester...

Birthdays today

The Marquess of Aberdeen and Temair, 78; Sir Christopher Beeson...

Today's royal engagements

The Prince of Wales will open British Airways' new corporate headquarters...

Royal Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain

The following have been made fellows of the Royal Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain...

University news

ROYAL HOLLOWAY COLLEGE
The honorary degree of doctor of literature...

Actuaries' Company

The following have been installed as officers of the Worshipful Company of Actuaries...

Forthcoming marriages

Mr A. Akinjide and Miss O. Olatunbo
The engagement is announced between Abayomi...

Mr P.D. Edey and Miss A.J. Baxter
The engagement is announced between Phillip...

Mr S.J. Edwards and Miss P. Whitson
The engagement is announced between Samuel...

Mr O.C.E. George and Miss C.H. Nicholson
The engagement is announced between Owain...

Mr F.P.M.L.V. Sonnevile and Miss G.L. Emslie
The engagement is announced between Francois...

Marriage

Mr O.G. Parker and Miss T.M. Newson
The marriage took place on Saturday...

Luncheon

Sri Lanka Day
The Rev Alan Cornfoot was the host at a luncheon...

Dinner

E.A. Gibson Shipbrokers Ltd
The Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress...

Ball

Stowe Jubilee
A jubilee ball was held on Saturday...



A visitor to the Artists in Arms exhibition in Edinburgh is caught in silhouette in front of Ewan Bala's painting Land Mine...

Return of the fleeing Ice Age natives

By NORMAN HAMMOND, ARCHAEOLOGY CORRESPONDENT
DNA research at Oxford suggests that 70 per cent of the genetic make-up of modern Europeans...

Nature notes

SPOONBILLS, which are large white birds with long legs and a beak like an auctioneer's paddle...

Anniversaries

BIRTHS: Petrarch, poet, Arezzo, Italy, 1304; John Charles Reith, 1st Baron Reith...

Deaths

DEATHS: Andrew Lang, scholar, collector of fairy stories...

Promotions in the RAF

The Ministry of Defence announces the following RAF promotions all effective from July 1, 1998...

BMDS: 0171 680 6880 PRIVATE: 0171 481 4000 TRADE: 0171 481 1982 FAX: 0171 481 9313

PERSONAL COLUMN

Grid of small advertisements including: THANKSGIVING SERVICES, TICKETS FOR SALE, FLATSHARE, FLIGHTS DIRECTORY, LEGAL NOTICES, BIRTHS, DEATHS, WANTED, SERVICES, TICKETS FOR SALE, FLATSHARE, OVERSEAS TRAVEL, UK HOLIDAYS, TICKETS FOR SALE, FLATSHARE, FLIGHTSEEKERS.

Order for immediate service call the 24 hour order line on 0870 840 300. Includes Arabic text 'كندا من الأصل'.

OBITUARIES

SIR JAMES LIGHTHILL

Sir James Lighthill, mathematician and Provost of University College London, 1979-89, died while attempting to swim around Sark on July 17 aged 74. He was born on January 23, 1924.

Twenty-five years ago, James Lighthill became the first person to swim around the Channel Island of Sark, calling it "a most pleasant way to see the scenery". He subsequently repeated the feat five times, but on Friday, nine hours into another attempt and nearing the end of the nine-mile swim, he was found dead in the water. His passion for swimming may have brought him to wide public attention, but it is for his brilliant and wide-ranging contributions to applied mathematics over many years that Lighthill will be remembered.

Considered by his peers to be one of the great mathematicians of the century, perhaps even a genius, Lighthill was a pioneer in supersonic aerodynamics, in oceanographic studies and astrophysics. He virtually created the field of biofluid-dynamics, the study of how animals move through air or water, as well as the study of the fluid mechanics of the cardiovascular system. His ideas touched everything from earthquakes and the boundary currents in the Indian Ocean to the movement of road traffic. He held the senior mathematical chair at Cambridge, and became a leading adviser on

government scientific policy. Michael James Lighthill was something of a child prodigy. He won a scholarship from Winchester to Trinity College, Cambridge, when he was just 15, though he did not go up until two years later.

While at Cambridge he met Nancy Dumaresq, a mathematician at Newnham, and when she began to work at the Royal Aircraft Establishment at Farnborough, he tried for a job there himself. The selection board, however, quickly realised that he had an ulterior as well as a dutiful motive, and sent him instead to the National Physical Laboratory in Teddington. There his work on supersonic and hypersonic aerodynamics flourished, as did the romance with his fiancée, whom he married in 1945.

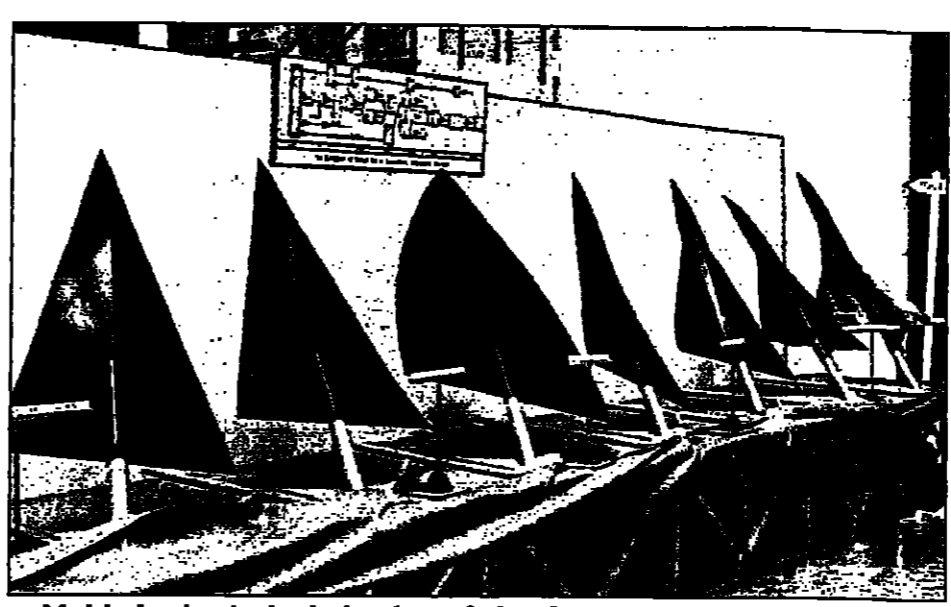
One of his principal mathematical interests was the study of fluid dynamics, and he was said to have used this over the years as he planned his long-distance swims around islands all over the world — escapades about which he spoke with pride and enthusiasm.

As a prize fellow of Trinity after the war, he went to teach at Manchester University, first as a senior lecturer and then as a professor. Already he was becoming well known for work in both pure and applied maths. He also did theoretical work on jet engines, and Lighthill's law states that the acoustic power radiated by a jet is proportional to the eighth power of the jet speed.

Neither his careful dynamic



calculations nor the apparent convenience of the railway guard, however, excused the offence of jumping from a slowly moving train when he found that the Irish Mail did not stop at Crewe. He was fined £1. In 1959 Lighthill moved to be Director of the Royal Aircraft Establishment at Farnborough for five years, winning both the Gold Medal of the American Government, Allied set up London University's Institute of United States Studies, with a view to coordinating graduate teaching within the university and providing supporting facilities for the many American studies programmes that were springing up around the country.



Models showing the developing shape of wings for supersonic aircraft at the Royal Aircraft Establishment at Farnborough, where Lighthill was Director from 1959 to 1964

created a new space department. In 1962 he spoke optimistically about a manned craft taking off from Earth, being used in a manoeuvre in space and then returning to Earth. He mentioned the possibility of a "dart-shaped" supersonic aircraft, and his work in wind-tunnels was to prove critical to the development of Concorde.

The following year, Lighthill challenged the Government to back research he had been engaged in with Post Office engineers and industrial scientists in the development of commercial television and communications satellites. Although Britain did not compete successfully in the space

race, Lighthill was later the recipient, on his country's behalf, of two capsules of soil from the Moon, collected by unmanned Soviet spacehips.

In 1964 he became the Royal Society's resident professor at Imperial College, London, before returning to Trinity College, Cambridge, five years later as Lucasian Professor of Mathematics, a chair he held until 1979, when he was succeeded by Stephen Hawking. As well as continuing to publish on fluid dynamics — particularly the theory of waves in ocean and atmosphere — he worked on chaos theory and the unpredictability of large systems.

In 1979 Lighthill took on a more administrative role, as Provost of University College London, where his scientific interests were a considerable contrast to the literary and historical pursuits of his predecessor, Lord Annan. He found the college budget being squeezed but, despite some initial doubts about his suitability for the post, he was acknowledged to have maintained academic standards. He particularly supported work in the life sciences and in the new disciplines of biotechnology. He helped to win government backing for the establishment of a biotechnology company in collaboration with scientists

from other institutions, specialising in the use of microbes in the synthesis of new products.

Lighthill was a member of numerous learned societies at home and abroad, and held 24 honorary doctorates. He served on several public bodies, including the Advisory Committee on Technology, the Natural Environment Research Council (1965-70), the board of the Post Office (1972-74) and a committee on natural disaster reduction. He was president of the International Union of Theoretical and Applied Mechanics from 1984 to 1988.

In 1975 he produced a report for the Science Research Council, adjudicating on whether Britain should devote considerable resources to the development of artificial intelligence. He was discouraging about the prospects for intelligent robots, and had grave doubts about any hopes of bridging the gap between man and machine. The work that had been done up to that time, he wrote, "casts doubts upon whether the whole concept of artificial intelligence as an integrated field of research is a valid one".

A very stylish lecturer, Lighthill used to act out the complicated motions of swimming fish or flying birds. He was knighted in 1971 and made an honorary fellow of Trinity in 1986. His *Collected Scientific Papers* were published in four volumes by Oxford University Press last year. He is survived by his wife and by their son and four daughters.

PROFESSOR HARRY ALLEN

Professor Harry Allen, MC, historian, died in Philadelphia on June 21 aged 81. He was born on March 23, 1917.

ALONG with Herbert Nicholas, Harry Allen was one of the founding fathers of American Studies in Britain. Educated at Bedford School and Pembroke College, Oxford, he briefly studied the history of the United States as an undergraduate in the late 1930s under D. W. Brogan. This was unusual, for in those days American subjects rarely featured on British curriculums. It was enough, however, to arouse Allen's curiosity, and on graduation he obtained a Commonwealth fellowship to study at Harvard. But the Second World War intervened, and it was a further six years before he was able to take up the offer — and then only for nine months.

Nevertheless, his experiences during those years profoundly affected his career. As an infantry officer, he took part in the invasion of Europe and won the Military Cross. Service alongside American troops made him aware that the British were very much the junior partners during the last stages of the war.

Above all, he was impressed by the sheer magnitude of the American contribution. He wondered how it was possible that a nation of such size and power could have been virtually ignored by the British educational system.

So Allen returned to Oxford in 1946 persuaded of the need to extend the curriculum and with a passionate belief in the pivotal role of the "special relationship" in shaping the post-war world.

As a fellow and tutor of Lincoln College he was obliged to teach a wide range of topics within the Modern History syllabus. But in what time he could spare he laboured on what is still the only comprehensive overview of Anglo-American relations to have appeared this century.

At one level *Great Britain and the United States*, which was published in 1953, is a measured account of diplomatic manoeuvrings and territorial rivalries; at another it is an affirmation of cultural and po-



litical affinity. Allen's great heroes were Roosevelt and Churchill. The book begins and ends (almost a thousand pages later) with quotations from Churchill extolling the contribution of the two countries to world peace and freedom. These were the early Cold War years, and the notion of Britain and America standing shoulder to shoulder in defence of liberal values was very much in keeping with the mood of the times.

Other books followed. In 1957 Allen co-edited *British Essays in American History*, a collection of 17 pieces which was greeted with bemusement by American historians, few of

whom had any inkling of the stirrings of British interest in their subject. The *Anglo-American Predicament* (1960), on the other hand, sought to address the problems of the present, most notably the challenge to transatlantic co-operation and the British Commonwealth posed by the movement towards a union of countries in Europe, a development that Allen viewed at the time with unease.

Meanwhile, he was becoming something of a transatlantic statesman. In 1955 he was appointed to the Commonwealth Chair of American History at University College London, still Britain's only perma-

nent chair in the subject, with the result that he found himself continually called upon for advice. Spurred by Cold War considerations, the Americans were now eager to promote the study of their history among European academics. Government and private money was readily available. But how might it best be spent? Harry, as he became universally known (no surname required), was a key figure in setting up a host of projects ranging from surveys of British library holdings to funding new posts and setting up scholarships.

In the early 1960s British universities entered a period of rapid expansion. As the demand for courses in American history, politics and literature grew, so did the need for teachers. In 1966, with the assistance of a grant from the American Government, Allen set up London University's Institute of United States Studies, with a view to coordinating graduate teaching within the university and providing supporting facilities for the many American studies programmes that were springing up around the country.

The burden of being both Commonwealth Professor and director of the Institute left little time for research and writing. In 1972, in the hope of remedying this, he moved to the new University of East Anglia, which already had a well established American studies programme. This proved to be no avail. His genial personality and skills as an administrator and political fixer promptly led to his becoming Dean of English and American Studies. Extramural demands were no less pressing. From 1974 to 1977 he served as chairman of the British Association for American Studies and from 1976 to 1980 as the first president of the newly democratised European Association for American Studies.

Having started out as a convinced Americanist, Allen ended his career as dedicated Europeanist, albeit one who continued to believe passionately in the importance of the transatlantic relationship.

After the death of his wife Mary in 1992, he went to live with relatives in the United States. He is survived by two daughters and a son.

SIR ROBERT CLAYTON

Sir Robert Clayton, CBE, former Technical Director of GEC, died on June 20 aged 82. He was born on October 30, 1915.

IN one respect, Robert Clayton was very fortunate. His career began at a propitious moment, at the start of a new age, and by the time he retired he could claim that his life had spanned the whole period of the development of applied electronics.

Robert James Clayton was born in Fulham to a family of modest means. His father had been a clerk before the First World War but, after being invalided out of the Services, found he had to follow an outdoor occupation. It was proposed that the family move to Canada but these hopes were dashed by his father's death. His mother then made a living of sorts as a dressmaker.

Provisionally, Clayton's academic ability was recognised and supported by two county scholarships, a state scholarship and a major scholarship to Christ's College Cambridge, where he read natural sciences, specialising in physics.

After graduating he joined the General Electric Company research laboratories in north Wembley, where one of his early tasks was to design the time base section of the GEC's new television set, using only one valve for each of the time bases. He succeeded with the time base but cheated with the frame time base by asking the valve company to put two valves in a single envelope.

With the outbreak of war in 1939 he became involved with airborne radar, the design of compact directional antenna systems and associated microwave engineering. After the war, he applied this experience to the development of the first microwave link to take television from London to Birmingham. A major innovation which he and his colleague Bob Kirkness introduced was the use of frequency modulation, a feature which proved crucial to the success of the link.

When GEC was asked to take the lead in developing missile guidance systems for the Royal Navy, Clayton set up the applied electronics labo-



ratories at Stanmore, which he ran until 1959, when he returned to the Wembley research laboratories as deputy director of research, responsible for communications and engineering. In 1961 he took on the role of managing the newly formed GEC Electronics company, which brought together GEC's three applied electronics laboratories and three manufacturing plants. The company had a wide range of activities, including defence electronics, communications equipment and systems, road and rail signalling equipment and X-ray tubes and instruments.

In 1967 and 1968 GEC took over AEI and merged with English Electric and Clayton found himself in the thick of the reorganisation. The inevitable closure of duplicate research facilities earned him something of a grim reputation. In 1968 he was appointed technical director of the augmented General Electric Company and he became a main board director in 1978, holding these posts until his formal retirement in 1983. His role covered the direction and co-ordination of research across the whole range of GEC activities. While it could no longer pride itself on covering "Everything Electrical", which had been the advertising line used by the company until the end of the 1950s, GEC still had interests from domestic white and brown goods through professional and military electronics

to communications, and both power and heavy engineering. The problems of managing such a wide range of technologies were considerable, and the task was made no easier by an environment determined by Lord Weinstock's notorious financial ratios. With few exceptions, a request for central funding to develop a new business area, such as cable television, would be met with the observation that all of the operating units could readily find major new areas in which to invest, and it was up to them to sort out their own development programmes. A consequence of this approach was that only highly profitable companies could spend substantially on "blue sky" research.

But some of the new electronics industries required long-term investment and development before they came to maturity and began to turn a profit, and Clayton was saddened by GEC's failure to take full advantage of the considerable expertise in information technology, satellite and cable television and computing, which had been assembled in the early 1960s.

Throughout his career, and for ten years after his retirement, Clayton took an energetic interest in the professional activities of physicists and engineers. He was a fellow of the Institution of Electrical Engineers, the Institute of Physics and of the Royal Academy of Engineering. He served as

president of the Institution of Electrical Engineers in 1975, of the Institute of Physics from 1982 to 1984, and was vice-president of the Fellowship of Engineering (now the Royal Academy of Engineering), from 1980 to 1982.

He was a member of numerous public bodies and government committees, many of which he chaired, such as the National Electronics Council, of which he was a member for ten years from 1973, and the Parliamentary and Scientific Committee, of which he was vice-president (1983-86).

As well as bodies related to his professional activities, he took a broader interest in business, science and education. At various times he was invited to serve with the Science Museum Advisory Council, the University Grants Committee, the Standing Conference on Schools, Science and Technology, and the Royal College of Surgeons in London. From 1983 to 1989 he was a member of the Monopolies and Mergers Commission. In 1983 he was made an honorary fellow of Christ's College, Cambridge, and he also held honorary doctorates from Oxford and four other universities. He was appointed OBE in 1960, advanced to CBE in 1970, and knighted in 1980.

In later life he suffered with fortitude the diseases of old age, and became increasingly handicapped by extreme short sight. To counter these problems he made full use of the facilities which computers and information technology had made available, using the latest hardware and software to scan documents and have them read out to him automatically. In recent months he took delight in using the Internet to access the websites of the professional institutions, newspapers and other publications such as *New Scientist*, to which this text-to-speech program gave him access.

Throughout his career he had the dedicated support of his wife Joy, whose death in November last year affected him deeply. She had been his eyes for some years, and after his retirement she was also his chauffeur and no mean intellect herself — his principal intellectual support. They had no children.

Church news

Appointments
The Rev Duncan Barnes, Curate, Hornchurch St Andrew (Chelmsford); to be Vicar, Domington, and Bicker (Lincoln).
Canon Jeremy Haselock, Vicar, Boxgrove (Chichester); to be Residentiary Canon of Norwich Cathedral (Norwich).
The Rev Peter Pike, Priest-in-Charge, Barnacre w Calder Vale (Blackburn); to be Vicar, Briercliffe St James (same diocese).
The Rev Annette Reed, Curate, Hinkley Assumption of St Mary the Virgin, St Francis and St Paul (Leicester); to be Curate (Team Vicar designate), the Sheepy Group (same diocese).
The Rev Richard Seed, Vicar, Boston Spa, and Priest-in-Charge, Clifford, and Rural

Dean of New Ainsty (York); to be also Priest-in-Charge, Thorp Arch w Walton (same diocese).
The Rev William Stuart-White, Vicar, Austrey and Warton (Birmingham); to be Rector, Camborne (Truro).
The Rev Graham Sykes, previously Curate, Breinton, and Diocesan Coordinator for Evangelism (Hereford); to be appointed additionally to be Team Vicar, West Hereford.
The Rev Ian Williams, NSM, Corby Glen (Lincoln); to be Rector, Ingoldby (same diocese).
Retirements and resignations
The Rev Ian Bennett, Director of Ministry and Training, and Director of PCT (Newcastle) to retire July 31.

The Rev Michael Burke, Vicar, Canon Pryn w Kings Pryn and Birley, and Priest-in-Charge, Wellington w Pipe-cum-Lyde and Moreton-or-Lugg (Hereford) to retire August 31.
The Rev Joyce Clarke, Curate, Prestbury (Chester) retired June 30.
The Rev Donald Ferriday, Rector, West Kirby St Bridget (Chester) to retire July 31.
The Rev Thomas Harper, Team Rector, North Tyne and Redesdale Team, and Rural Dean of Bellingham (Newcastle) retired June 30.
Canon Thomas Williamson, Vicar, Gosberton, Gosberton Clough and Quadrin (Lincoln) to retire November 14.
Canon Kenneth Harris, NSM Priest-in-Charge, Ashton L Hayes (Chester) retired July 16.

Canon Patrick Hobson, Team Rector, Waltham Holy Cross (Chelmsford) to retire August 15.
The Rev Andrew Talbot-Ponsonby, Rector, Wigmore Abbey (Hereford) to resign October 31.
The Rev Jill Talbot-Ponsonby, NSM Assistant Curate, Wigmore Abbey (Hereford) to resign October 31.
The Rev Michael Warchus, Vicar, Acomb St Stephen (York) to retire June 30.
Other appointments
Richard Beadle CA to be Church Army Captain, Nelson St Philip (Blackburn).
Lisa Fenion to be Diocesan Board of Education Schools' Adviser (Blackburn).
Captain David Waters CA, to be Deanery Evangelist and Youth Worker, Yaxley (Ely).

LONDON WATER SUPPLY RESTRICTIONS ON USE

At a meeting of the Metropolitan Water Board yesterday it was resolved that water consumers in the Board's area should be given notice that, in consequence of the unusual drought, the Board suspended, until further notice, the use of water for gardens and motor-cars by means of hoses, outside taps, and sprinklers, and that consumers themselves be liable to penalties for waste, misuse, or undue consumption of water.
The vice-chairman, Mr R. W. James, said that in view of the continued drought, he must supplement what he said at the last meeting on July 5. He added:
"On that occasion I referred to the abnormal increase in consumption brought about mainly by the watering of gardens, sports grounds, etc., and I urged the consumers to exercise every economy and care in the use of water and to eliminate all forms of waste and excessive use. It is to be regretted that this request for cooperation from the consumers in a matter of such importance was not given the publicity in the Press to which, in my opinion, it was entitled. . . . Moreover, it is apparent from the quantity of water consumed, which since my previous statement has increased by a material rather than diminished, that little or no attention has been paid by the public to the official warning. The matter, therefore,

ON THIS DAY

July 20, 1929
To combat the drought of 1929 the Metropolitan Water Board announced restrictions on the use of water; it was suggested that instead of having a full bath in the morning "sensibly-minded people might be content with 6in. of water and have a sponge down".
has now reached that stage that the Board, being unable any longer to rely on the voluntary assistance of the consumers, are reluctantly compelled to curtail the supply in certain parts of their area.
Sir George Handover, the chairman of the Works Committee, said that, instead of the use of water having been curtailed during the drought, it had in the last fortnight increased by 30,000,000 gallons a day. He asked the Board to confirm his committee's decision to instruct the Chief Engineer to take the neces-

sary steps to shut down water supplies to gardens and to restrict the use of hose-pipes and sprinklers for gardens and motor-cars. It was all very well to say that "good old Father Thames" could supply a great bulk of water sufficient for all needs. While that might be true, the difficulty was one of distribution. There were other restrictions that sensibly-minded people would willingly adopt. For instance, instead of having a full bath in the morning, they would be content with only 6in. of water in the bath, and have a sponge down. Car users would polish their cars without the aid of water, and, if they were unable to, he hoped their dirty cars would bring credit to them for saving water. He did not want to appear an alarmist. The Board's engineering staff was coping with the problem with all the skill possible and the Board had every confidence that they would succeed. But he made a strong appeal to the public now to use their common sense. If the restrictions he suggested were put into force the difficulties would be overcome, and the Board's pumping arrangements would prove adequate. . . .
The notice issuing the ban comes in force at once, and the Clerk to the Water Board stated yesterday that it would remain in force till the drought ended. It would probably mean the saving of tens of thousands of gallons of water every day. The restrictions applied to all gardens and private allotments, but not to the professional gardener's land. Inspectors would be on the look-out for those who disregarded the prohibition. . . .

NEWS

Boost for shops that deliver goods
Radical plans for shops to pay lower rates if they help the Government in its fight against car pollution and congestion are expected to be announced today.

Teachers threaten strike over pay
The Government is facing its first serious showdown with the trade unions as teachers' leaders yesterday threatened industrial action over plans to link their performance to pay.

Brussels challenge
Parliamentarians from Westminster and their European Union counterparts would gain a foothold in the European Parliament under radical proposals to trim the power of Brussels.

Crash clean-up fury
Families of road crash victims have joined safety experts in protest at government plans to offer cash incentives to clear up accident wreckage within 30 minutes.

Children in care
The Government has plans for "foster grandparents" to help children in care and to support young families.

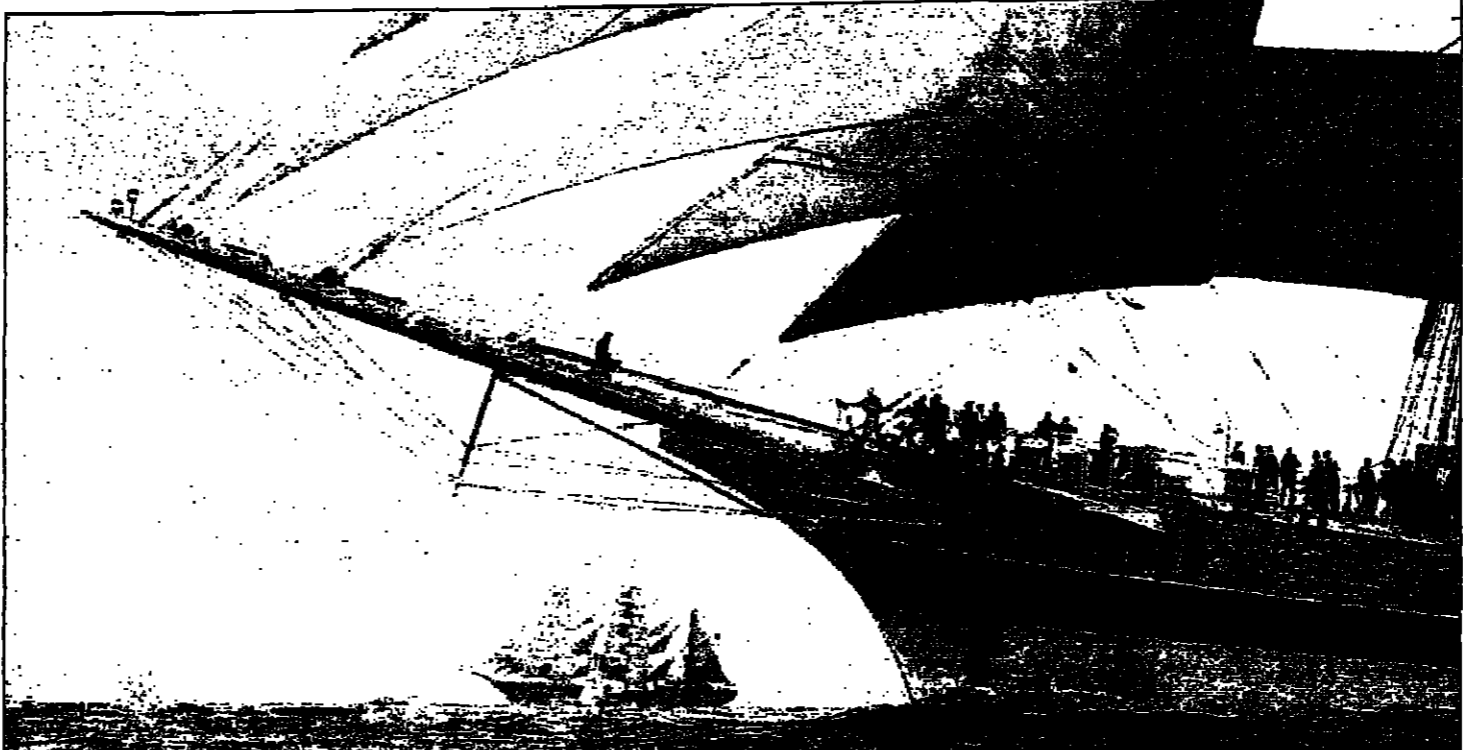
New Guinea floods
Australia last night was spearheading an international relief operation to the stricken north-west coast of Papua New Guinea, where whole villages have been washed away.

Lewinsky a 'stalker'
American Secret Service agents remember Monica Lewinsky as a "born stalker" who was infatuated with President Clinton.

Julie murder charge
An official in Kenya's wildlife service is to appear in a Nairobi court today charged with the murder ten years ago of the British Lord Ward.

War tribunal hailed
Kofi Annan, the United Nations Secretary-General, hailed the establishment of a permanent war crimes tribunal at the weekend.

Byron's wax mask of passion
A wax carnival mask worn by Lord Byron at the height of the great poet's passionate affair with a young Italian countess in the early 19th century goes on display in Rome today after a delicate restoration.



Some of the 90 craft taking part in this year's Tall Ships Race set sail from Falmouth in south Cornwall yesterday afternoon

Carpet beating: Nationwide Building Society will press for tougher laws to stop it having to fight an annual £3 million campaign against carpet-baggers.

Family brewers: Young & Co, the West London real ale brewer, will this week become the latest traditional firm to come under City pressure.

Alzheimer's drug: A chemical originally developed from substances in daffodil bulbs by Shire Pharmaceuticals, one of the UK's smaller drugs groups, has passed clinical trials.

The nightmare of the school run: Valerie Grove reports on how schools should take responsibility for gathering their pupils together.

Stirling moth: The marriage of living organisms and artificial creations has amazing implications for human.

Diana's favourite: Times have changed, but the couturier David Sassoon is still a top name after 40 years in the business.

Colour-blind casting: All Clive Rowe cares about is being a good actor, no matter what colour the character he is playing.

High notes: Her voice may be less opulent than once, but Dame Kiri Te Kanawa pulls out all the stops at the end of Glyndebourne's revival of Capriccio.

Good start: The Proms kicked off with a rousing performance of Berlioz's massive The Damnation of Faust.

Golf: Mark O'Meara, of the United States, won the Open championship, overcoming his compatriot Brian Watts in a four-hole play-off.

Rugby union: Brian Baister became the new chairman of the Rugby Football Union's management board after Cliff Brittle was ousted at the RFU annual meeting.

Athletics: Ian Mackie failed to confirm his potential in the 100 metres when he was well beaten in the Bupa Games in Gateshead.

Cycling: Tour de France organizers are braced for more startling revelations about drug use after what has been called the "Festina affair".

Boxing: Chris Eubank has promised to consider his future in the sport after his defeat by Carl Thompson in their WBO cruiser-weight bout.

3, 11, 20, 33, 42, 44. Bonus: 36. Twelve win £1,014,000 each. Thirty-one receive £76,537 each with five balls and the bonus ball; 1,980 with five numbers win £748 each; 32,868 with four numbers win £39 each; and 1,281,872 get £10 each for matching three numbers.

Preview: The trial of Helen Duncan, accused in 1944 of being a witch (Secret History: Witch Hunt CA, 99p). Review: Henry Moore: Carving a Reputation (BBC2) had too many holes in it. Page 47

Don't be vague
If William Hague attacks higher government spending, he should say what he would cut. If he says what he is against, he should also say what he is for. Page 21

Turkic turmoil
It is unwise for Central Asia's leaders to brand all dissent with the label of Islamic sedition. Page 21

Pop goes the BBC
Radio 1's audience has been plummeting and the BBC is desperate. But is this where its priorities ought to lie? Page 21

PETER RIDDELL
Tony Blair has always been a keen student of Margaret Thatcher's statecraft. The dominance of Thatcherism was only firmly established after her September 1981 reshuffle. Mr Blair faces a similar challenge now. Page 20

WILLIAM REES-MOGG
There seem to be no great political issues exciting the American people, and politics is largely discussed in terms of celebrity. Page 20

BARRY DOUGLAS
Next week talented and dedicated young pianists will be competing in the Santander International Piano Competition. Page 20

Sir James Lightfoot, mathematician; Professor Harry Allen, historian; Sir Robert Clayton, former GEC technical director. Page 23

Asylum-seekers; investment in science: "dismal" summer; German election; university fees; TV comedy; importance of fathers; Sandhurst training. Page 21

Bill Clinton's bodyguards are under increasing pressure to reveal every detail of the President's relationship with Monica Lewinsky. Kenneth Starr clearly hopes they will incriminate the man it is their job to protect - La Repubblica



TOMORROW
IN THE TIMES
Fresh from her Oscar triumph, Helen Hunt tackles Twelfth Night in New York

LAW
The dangers for lawyers when they come into contact with criminals

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,848

Crossword puzzle grid with numbers 1-28 indicating starting positions for clues.

- ACROSS
1 A young creature first seen in this island... (4)
3 ... and this bird lives in the same place, initially (4)
6 About time grazing animal is put off (5)
10 Bunting taken from door to landing (7)
11 Literary man's honour - not Hardy's, however? (7)
12 Humourist in desert without a vehicle to jump on (9)
13 Royal house party held in rejection of dreary routine (5)
14 Beak given the staff that's required to press charges (6)
16 Source of gold king found on leaving capital with president (8)
18 Vessel a serving-girl carried back into pub (8)
19 Unemotional type originally employed in firm (6)
22 An Irish composer's range of activities (5)
23 Extrovert son's expenditure (9)
25 Fatty is a dope, unfortunately (7)
26 Empress, way back, with name enshrined in song (7)
27 Played a risky stroke, showing keenness (5)
28 Reduce sail, seeing hazard at sea (4)
29 Fish in burn (4)
DOWN
1 Beat Australian friend across lake (7)
2 Continue playing cricket for the staff (5)
4 Gentle way to approach end of decade, say (6)
5 Foolish to accept damaged net without saying anything (8)
6 Sceptic studying modern poet, but confused inwardly (8,6)
7 Dreary activity, initially, to study economics (9)
8 Substitute book (7)
9 Vacillate like certain fans? (4,3,4)
15 Infuriating, like Gray's crowd concealing directions (9)
17 Disposed to use bar, he inflicts malicious damage (8)
18 Expand home, adding fifth apartment (7)
20 Hopelessness Christian had to combat (7)
21 Work of art university displayed in ceremonial style (6)
24 An old chestnut may produce this sort of laugh (5)

The solution of Saturday's Prize Puzzle No 20,847 will appear next Saturday. The five winners will each receive a £20 book token.

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World City Weather
133 international world wide
by phone 011 0320 41216

Motoring
Europe Country by Country
0320 401 885

Hours of Darkness
Sun rises: 5:07 am Sun sets: 9:06 pm
Moon sets: 6:03 pm Moon rises: 2:26 am

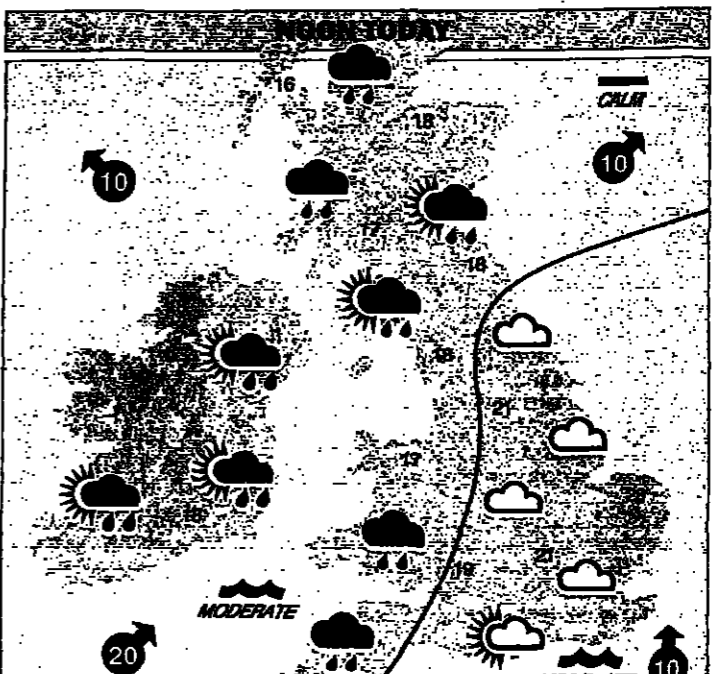
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41% of the raw material for UK newspapers in the first half of 1997

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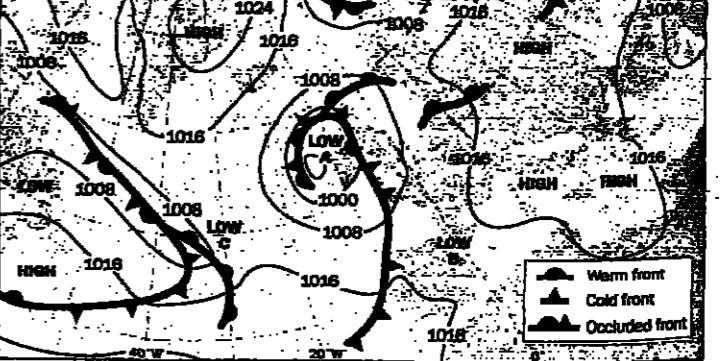
FORECAST
General: warm with showers, perhaps thunder later in south and eastern England.
London, SE England, E Anglia: hazy sunshine, risk of sharp showers or thunderstorms in evening. Wind S, light to moderate. Max 26C (80F).

24 hrs to 5 pm: b=brilliant; c=cloud; d=drizzle; ds=dust storm; du=dust; h=hail; g=gale; h=halt; m=moderate; o=obscure; r=rain; s=sunny; t=thunder; w=wind; x=unknown; y=yellow; z=zebra
Aberdeen 1.4 0.07 18 59 f Leeds 2.8 0.04 17 65 f

ABROAD
Aaccio 25 77 s Corfu 29 84 s Malaga 30 85 s Salzburg 21 70 i
Aberdeen 28 82 s Cynegon 15 59 f Melfino 27 81 s Santiago 11 52 i



Changes to chart below from noon: low A will move north, slowly filling. Low B will drift around Spain with little change. Low C will move east with little change.



TODAY
Aberdeen 10.50 AM 9.8 11.06 3.9 HT Liverpool 10.07 AM 8.4 10.44 6.5
Aberdeen 10.50 AM 9.8 11.06 3.9 HT London Bridge 10.50 6.6 11.17 6.5

Yesterday: Highest day temp: Jersey 26C (79F); lowest day temp: Kirkcubright, Perth and Kinross 12C (54F); highest rainfall: Manchester, Ayr and Bute 1.09in; highest sunshine: Clacton, Essex 14.2hrs.

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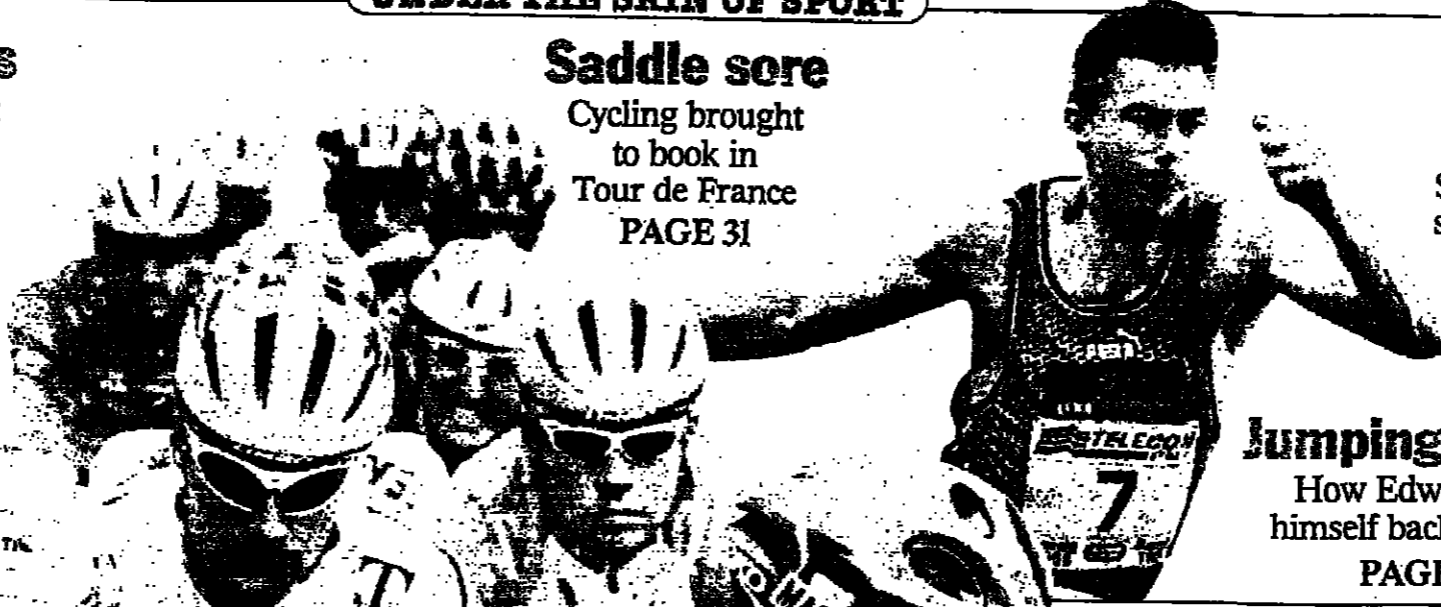
UNDER THE SKIN OF SPORT



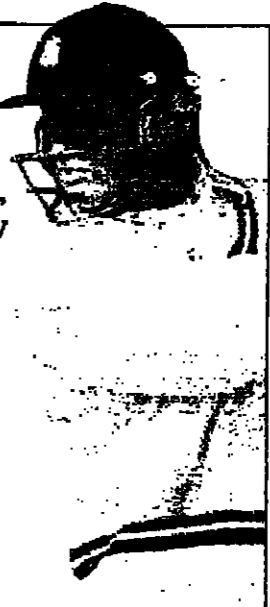
On the ropes
Why Eubank must throw in the towel.
PAGE 30

PLUS
The battle for English rugby
PAGE 32

Saddle sore
Cycling brought to book in Tour de France
PAGE 31



Test of nerves
Something old, something new for England
PAGE 29



Jumping for joy
How Edwards got himself back on track
PAGE 26

TIMES SPORT

14 PAGES

MONDAY JULY 20 1998

WATTS LOSES OUT TO THE MASTER IN TENSE PLAY-OFF



O'Meara, right, acknowledges the applause at Royal Birkdale as he moves to his first victory in the Open Championship, beating Watts, left, his American compatriot, in a dramatic four-hole play-off

O'Meara comes good at the last

DO NOT talk to Mark O'Meara about a mid-life crisis. The American, who will be 42 in January, has been coming to these shores to compete in the Open since 1981, and has now won two major championships within three months. In April, on a sunny evening, it was the Masters. Yesterday, he captured the 127th Open Championship after a four-hole play-off with Brian Watts, his 32-year-old compatriot.

O'Meara became the first man since Nick Price in 1994 to win two major championships in the same year. He defeated Watts after they had tied on 280, level par. "Watts is a tremendous player," O'Meara said. "He played a tremendous bunker shot on the 72nd. I knew I would have my work cut out to beat him. I love this championship so dearly. Winning it was an unbelievable moment."

O'Meara is no expert at play-offs, having won only two of the six in which he has competed on the US Tour, but beneath that pleasant, chubby face, topped off by dark hair that is greying at the temples, beats the heart of a competitor. O'Meara's last round was a 68, the third best of the day, and he always seemed to be in charge from the start of the play-off.

O'Meara took the lead on the 15th, the first extra hole, with a birdie four, a lead he was never to lose. The next two holes were halved with pars. On the 18th, O'Meara hit a long iron to the back fringe and then two-putted, just as he had an hour or so earlier. Watts pulled his second shot into a bunker on the left and took three more strokes to get down.

This was a dramatic end to

a championship that has provided one thrill after another. The figures that will be remembered will be Watts, who played so resolutely for so long, Justin Rose, a talented teenager who provided a storybook ending to his last round, Tiger Woods, who was joint leader after the first round and so very nearly got himself into the play-off, and O'Meara himself.

All this was achieved against a background of roars of support for Rose, the 17-year-old who has made such an impression at this champ-

ionship. If a scriptwriter in Hollywood were writing a story about a brilliant amateur on the verge of a brilliant career, he could scarcely have bettered the conclusion of Rose's days in the non-professional ranks.

Throughout the afternoon, when his inexperience might have got the better of him, Rose demonstrated the composure of a veteran, proving that his heart is as big as his skill, and although he hooked his last drive as an amateur he

then delivered one extraordinary stroke to produce a fairytale ending.

Rose holed his pitch from 45 yards for a 69, his second sub-par round of the championship, to ensure that he won the Silver Medal. It was the best finish by an amateur in the Open since Frank Stranahan finished joint second behind Ben Hogan at Carnoustie in 1953.

What a contrast this was with Lee Westwood, Rose's fellow Englishman. The 25-

year-old, of whom so much had been expected, limped home in 78, taking a seven and an eight on the 15th and 17th.

Raymond Russell, with a 66, has set a target of two over par. It did not take long for Woods to match it. The American, who has improved both his strokemaking repertoire and his patience in the past year, began the day five strokes behind the leader and 40 minutes ahead of him.

Woods's face was a mask of seriousness, his eyes narrowed intently. Such was the level of intensity that he took

what looked suspiciously like a push at his third putt on the 1st. Just over an hour later, the Royal and Ancient, after examining BBC television film, confirmed that Woods had not broken any rule.

Woods took 33 strokes to the turn and was still four strokes behind Watts. Woods birdied the 15th, which was downwind, then chipped in from 30 feet from the back of the 17th to get back to two over par. The exultation with which he greeted this was matched only by the exultation he showed on the 18th, when he holed a 35-foot putt for another birdie and a round of 66.

O'Meara missed the 16th green to the left and took a five, but then, having driven into the rough on the 17th, demonstrated what a masterly putter he is by holing from 15 feet to regain the lead.

On the 18th, O'Meara looked the picture of composure. His drive found the fairway, his iron the middle of the green, and he holed for his par, just as Tom Watson, his countryman, had done to win the Open of 1983.

Furyk had slipped out of contention. Only Watts, who believed he was not good

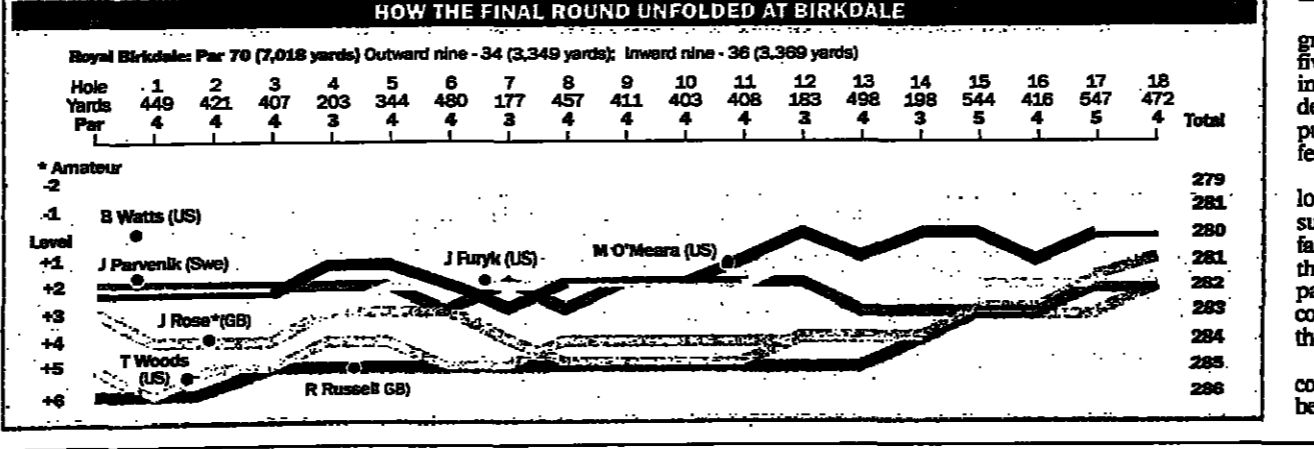
enough to play in the United States, could catch his fellow American.

Having nearly hit the flag with his pitch to the 17th, he then rolled in the ensuing 12-foot putt to draw level with O'Meara, and took the long walk up to the last tee.

From that tee most of Lancashire is visible on a clear day, but all Watts could see was the fairway. He came off his drive slightly and into the front left bunker, the ball trickling into sand with its last turn.

It was a pig of a lie, yet just

Tiger shows claws 27
Parveik left poorer 27
Taming a monster 27



'Golfers are not going to start trashing hotel rooms; Justin Rose looks more likely to tidy them up' Lyane Truss, page 33

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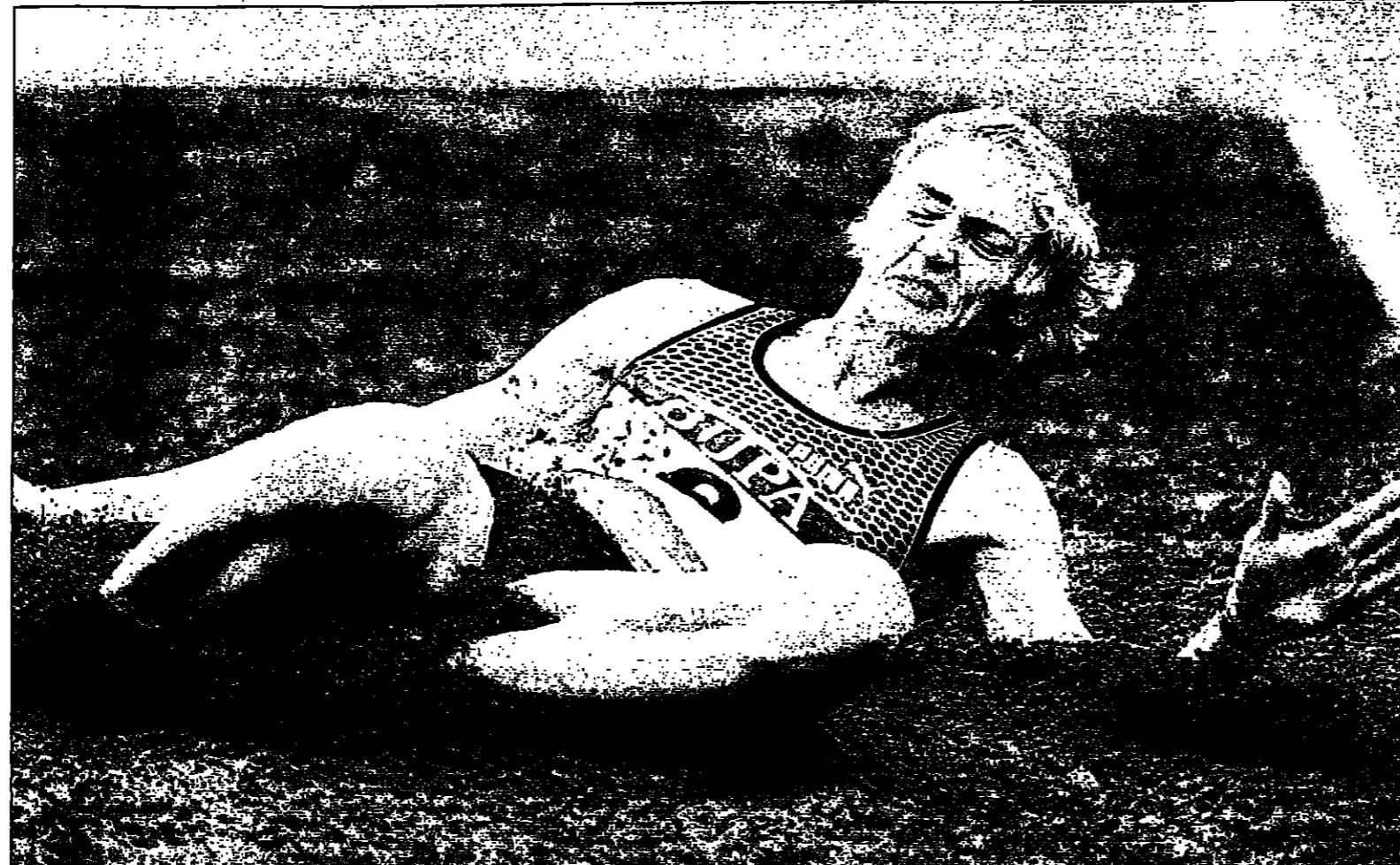
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ATHLETICS: MACKIE FAILS TO REPRODUCE SPARKLING FORM IN TESTING CONDITIONS AT GATESHEAD

Flying Scotsman goes off the rails

By David Powell
ATHLETICS CORRESPONDENT

IN an extraordinary and sudden loss of form, Ian Mackie was well beaten yesterday in the 100 metres at the Bupa Games in Gateshead. In the second of a three-race series designed to help develop a successor to Linford Christie, Mackie looked a different athlete from the one who broke through barriers in the Scottish championships the day before.



Heike Dreschler, battling against debilitating weather conditions at the Gateshead meeting yesterday, leaps to victory in the long jump

Results

championship record held by Allan Wells, set in the year that he won the Olympic gold medal. Although that too had the benefit of wind-assistance. Taking the wind into account, Mackie's time was reckoned to worth 10.05sec, with Wells's Scottish national record standing at 10.15sec.

Yesterday, though, the step up was followed by two steps down. Marlon Devonish, having won the first of the Nivea Sprint Challenge series, won the second in 10.36sec. Although this first meeting in the new dawn of British athletics, the first to be promoted by Fast Track, was blighted by appalling weather, that alone could not explain the metamorphosis of Mackie.

Finishing fifth, he said that he felt a twinge in his knee but he appeared to be running hard until five metres from the line. Adding to his embarrassment, Duane Ladelo, the European 400 metres champion, but now a decathlete, finished second.

Although Lachie won the 5,000 metres three times in succession, no athlete in the history of the Scottish championships had managed the double now performed by his son. Lachie, there to watch, was invited to present the 5,000 metres trophy.

After Sally Gunnell's retirement last year, Britain is awaiting a new talent in the women's 400 metres hurdles and Natasha Danvers went some way towards bridging the gap. In a field so strong that Neza Bidouane, the world champion, from Morocco, could only finish second. Danvers took fourth place in a time that elevated her into third place in the all-time British rankings.

Aged only 20, Danvers was not daunted by Bidouane's presence. She made a bold start and was still in contention coming off the final bend. However, Andrea Blackett, from Barbados, finished strongest to win in 54.39sec, Bidouane taking second place in 54.71sec.

To run this time in these conditions was just superb," Blackett said, her comment serving to underline the strength of Danvers's run. Blackett, London-born, is a prime candidate to succeed Gunnell as Commonwealth champion in Kuala Lumpur in September.

Allison Curbishley is another of Britain's fine young prospects. Aged 22, she is the World Student Games champion and yesterday she made another slight improvement, winning the 400 metres with a bold performance in a personal best time of 50.77sec.

Edwards rediscovers a world of difference

David Powell meets the triple jumper moving ahead with a new spring in his step

THE international athletics cycle turns once every four years. Towards the end of the last one, Jonathan Edwards was feeling down, struggling for form and questioning the value of "jumping into a sandpit for a living". Then, from out of the quicksand, Edwards constructed a giant sandcastle.

It was at the European championships in Helsinki in 1994 that Edwards poured his heart out. Mulling over life in his first year as a full-time professional triple jumper, he said that he had been travelling the circuit wishing he was at home with his wife and son.

"Am I doing anything worthwhile here?" he asked. "The pointlessness of it. You see doctors in Rwanda and think: 'They are making a difference'. But I am jumping into a sandpit. Who benefits from that? Within a year, he was named BBC Sports Personality of the Year.

his 1995 form and improving his world record appears to be a distinct possibility.

In a mesmerising summer three years ago, Edwards moved the world record forward three times, won the world title, gained 22 successive victories and recorded the longest wind-aided jump in history. At 29, superstardom came unexpectedly.

"It is more of a surprise to be where I am now than where I was then," Edwards said. "Not being at the top was what I was used to. That was my lot and, at that stage, I never expected it to be anything else."

Two weeks ago, in Oslo, Edwards achieved something that he had not managed since 1995 — an 18-metre jump. At a stroke, he had fulfilled his broad ambition for the season.

"My main goal was to jump well and, for me, that was jumping 18 metres, so, to a degree, I have achieved what I set out to achieve. Not that I am no longer motivated. I am just very contented in that respect already."

Following up his 18.01 metres in Oslo with victory in Rome last week, Edwards is the only British athlete remaining in contention for a share of the \$1 million jackpot to be shared by athletes winning their event at six Golden League meetings.

Two down, four to go. The peculiar thing is that Edwards, who set such store by his double-arm shift action when breaking his world records, now finds this move-

ment has deserted him. "It is a mystery," he said. "I did it in all of 1995, I do it in training, but when it comes to competition, it just does not happen." Without it, he is less balanced, less stable in his upper body.

Edwards is chasing honours on several fronts. The one in the bag is his European Cup triumph. To come at the European championships, World Cup, Commonwealth Games, Golden

League and grand prix final. Last night at Gateshead Edwards kept his momentum going, producing a winning jump of 17.18m in appalling conditions.

"I see myself retiring certainly by 2001 and maybe after the 2000 Olympics," he said. He hopes to make up for 1994, when, suffering a viral illness, though he did not know it, he was sixth in the European championships and second in the Commonwealth Games.

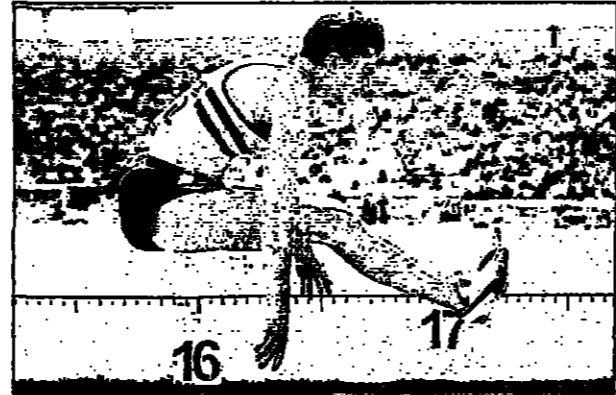
As Edwards arrived in Gateshead, his hopes were more for a successful meeting than for himself. It was the first outdoor showpiece since the British Athletic Federation went into administration last October and Edwards said: "After all that has happened, my feelings are more from a British perspective than they are for me."

After finishing runner-up at the 1996 Olympics, where his sequence of 22 victories was ended by Kenny Harrison, of the United States, Edwards found himself branded a failure, along with

the Great Britain team. Britain's six silver medals were judged worthless by ill-informed commentators who seemed to think that only gold mattered yet who now give the England football team and Tim Heaman credit for not even finishing second.

"I did not win at the Olympics, but I thought I jumped well, given that I had two fouls and one jump to stay in," Edwards said. "I was under huge pressure, which I felt I came through well." Last year, hampered by injury, Edwards lost his world title, finishing second to Yoelbi Quesada, of Cuba. "After 1997, I was a bit disillusioned with athletics," Edwards said, "I found training and competition hard work and I have shaken that off."

In Oslo, Edwards was only 28 centimetres short of his world record of 18.29 metres. "I do not think it is impossible that, in the right conditions, I can challenge 18.29," he said. "It is very exciting, but so much the 18 metres, but that is the feeling of sharpness." It is a feeling of excitement that British athletics so wants to share.



Edwards has found some of his best form this season

FOOTBALL: WENGER KEEN TO MOVE CHAMPIONS' LEAGUE FIXTURES TO WEMBLEY

Arsenal seek home help

ARSENAL may play their European Cup Champions' League games at Wembley Stadium this season. The Double winners feel that the 90,000 capacity of Highbury is too low to meet the interest that the matches will generate.

By OUR SPORTS STAFF

Wenger, who set such store by his double-arm shift action when breaking his world records, now finds this movement has deserted him. "It is a mystery," he said. "I did it in all of 1995, I do it in training, but when it comes to competition, it just does not happen." Without it, he is less balanced, less stable in his upper body. Edwards is chasing honours on several fronts. The one in the bag is his European Cup triumph. To come at the European championships, World Cup, Commonwealth Games, Golden

Manchester United denied last night suggestions that they would join a new European super league — despite claims that they are one of several leading clubs considering such a move. United had been named as part of a breakaway group, including Barcelona and Juventus, meeting in London to discuss the dismantling of the European Cup in favour of a new league format.

United deny plans to join Super league

clubs who are already rolling in cash who want to earn yet more."

His criticism was echoed by Hubert Kessler, the president of Kaiserslautern, the Bundesliga champions, who predicted the demise of the European Cup if leading teams on the Continent reach agreement on the new format. "I cannot see the two existing alongside each other," Niersbach said. "I think the fans would rather see Bayern against local rivals 1860 Munich than Bayern against Bilbao. The sporting issue also has to be called into question. After all, AC Milan only finished tenth in Serie A."

The FA Premier League has said that no clubs in the FA Carling Premiership were considering a move to another league. "It is purely hypothetical and there is no way it is on anybody's agenda," a spokesman for the league said. "We have made that clear and the clubs have made it clear that it is not of any interest to them. The issue of a super league has never been discussed."



Wenger: happy

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Rival suppliers join battle on the fairways

Matt Dickinson on the corporate war being waged between Nike and Adidas

DIFFERENT sport, same war: the battle for supremacy between Nike and Adidas, which raged across France during the World Cup this summer, has become such a familiar face to football fans that it has become almost a sport within the sport. Whether golf courses are ready for such corporate-heavy artillery is questionable, but make no mistake, it is on the way.

The opening shots were fired long before the Open Championship at Royal Birkdale, where Tiger Woods was so adorned with Nike ticks ("swooshes"), as they are known Stateside, that someone said he looked like Einstein's homework. Adidas had already retaliated by paying



Els is well paid for the privilege of being dressed?

high-profile recruit to wear its new range of gear and with the Taylor Made arm of the company providing the hardware, it believes that it will be able to attract more of the game's stars by offering the complete and lucrative package.

Sergio Garcia, the teenage Spanish amateur who many believe is a major winner in the making, already has a non-contract agreement and can expect to become a millionaire overnight when he turns professional.

The Adidas shop was proving equally busy with the young buyers, lured by golf shoes that, in many cases, appeared to be nothing more than trendy trainers with spikes on the bottom. Mark Richardson, of Adidas, said: "We see golf really booming as a young, sexy sport. Kids are getting into it because they can relate to the young players coming through, like Woods and Els. These guys are real athletes."

"At the moment, we do not see Nike as a direct rival. To be honest, we are looking at, say, FootJoy, because they are currently the heaviest sellers. But it is certainly fair to say that both ourselves and Nike realise how much growth there is left in golf. The commitment is there."

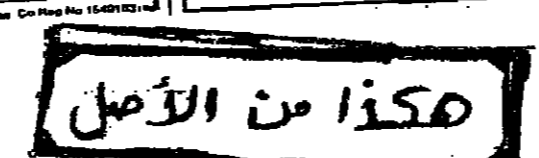
The Nike stand at Birkdale was overrun by schoolchildren every bit as much as Manchester United's megastore on a Saturday lunchtime and Iain Forsyth, of Nike,

FORTHCOMING COMPANY GOLF DAYS

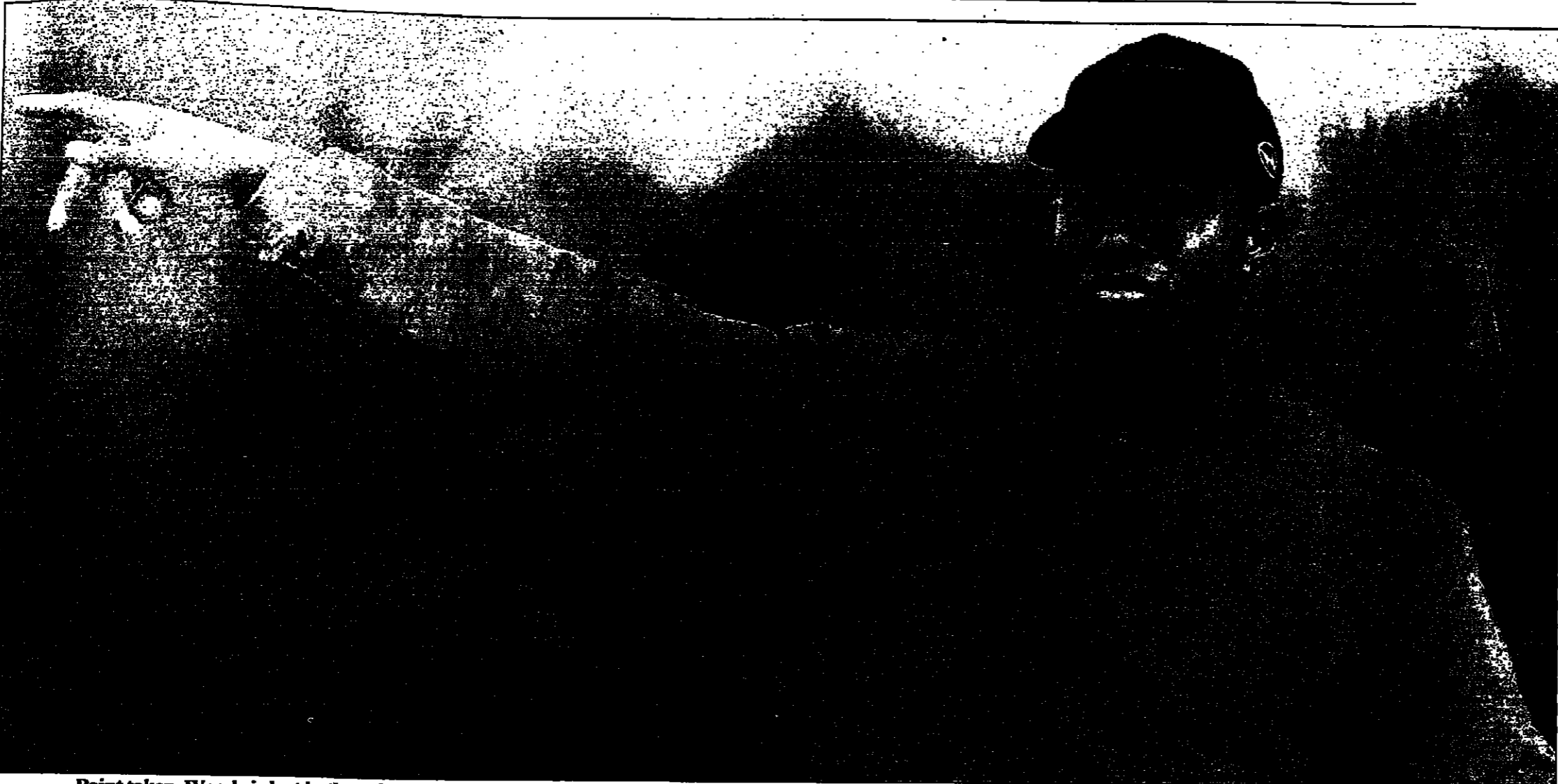
THE COMPANIES listed have registered their staff for the 1998 Challenge. The top 50 in the 100 scores on the day will form the company team to compete in the regional final.

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Matt Dickinson watches the game's biggest star enhance his reputation



Point taken: Woods is lost in thought as he plans his next shot during a final round in which he belatedly underlined his real quality. Photograph: Hugh Routledge

IT WAS heading for an anticlimax, but we should have known better. We were, after all, watching Tiger Woods. If ever a sportsman could cover third place in glory, it had to be the young American, who departed Royal Birkdale last night with his reputation as a golfing phenomenon intact.

For more than four hours, he had mooched through the drizzle, a muttering, often cursing, bundle of angst. "Give us a wave," came the plea from the gallery, but there was more chance of getting him to stand on his head.

The Tiger was not for smiling and nor, as he sulked halfway down the leaderboard, was his patiently disappointed fan club.

It couldn't last and it didn't. It was just a shame that it took until the 17th for Tiger to really show his claws. Three shots down and a couple of yards off the green on the par five, Woods was still two shots off the lead.

Out of contention, in other words, until his chip took its long, rolling journey into the hole, dropping over the lip with its very last, slow-motion revolution. It was the cue for pandemonium.

The Tiger was not smiling as he sulked down the board

Woods shows stroke of genius with final flourish

Suddenly Woods burst into life, thumping the air and whooping to the crowd like a cheerleader from his alma mater at Stanford University. His troops roused, they followed him down the last in search of more proof that they were watching golf history in the making. Tiger did his best not to disappoint them, sinking a curving, 30-foot putt to deafening cheers. From almost nowhere his name suddenly leapt to the top of the pile.

It was not to last more than ten minutes, of course. But a birdie-birdie finish had given Woods a joint-best round of the day 66 and a one over par finish. More significantly, it had given the Open Championship a display of quite wonderful defiance under pressure

and a reminder that we were watching a future champion. Woods will win this tournament one day, quite possibly at Carnoustie next year. At least, we must hope so because he is surely the best thing that has happened to this sport for many decades. One only has to watch the crowds of children who follow this golfing Pied Piper to realise that.

Such popularity, of course, comes at a price and the bodyguards that followed him around the fairways of Southport were an unfortunate, if inevitable, intrusion. Stalking edgily down the sides of each fairway

trying to look like Clint Eastwood guarding the President, they were ready to throw out anyone for a mistimed sneeze. If you believed the stories, they had small arsenals tucked under their jackets and were trained to kill with a stare from fifty paces. "There were a few heckles over the weekend," Woods said, "people saying stuff they shouldn't be on a golf course. Or anywhere else for that matter. But I have had a great reception."

Certainly on the last, where his finish brought the crowd to its feet. One only wonders what reception they would have afforded him had he won the thing. The chances of that, though, seemed to have died when Woods had barely started yesterday. He had begun the day knowing that he needed the early charge that would send terror through the leaders as they saw his name climbing inexorably up the pile. What he did not need was a bogey, but that is how he began after a sloppy three-putt.

"There was a lot of wind going down that hole and I just took hold of my first putt," he said. "But I felt I had plenty of time to get back. I had 17 holes and that is an eternity." An eternity was not long enough for Woods, though, who, despite birdies at the 2nd and 4th dropped

another shot at the 6th when he hit his second through the back. There were some spectacular moments. He hit a long approach at the 8th to around six inches and there was, of course, that remarkable finish. Woods, though, appeared to know it was not his day. "I seem to have had a year of missing play-offs by one shot," he said. "That seems to have been the story all along. I'm happy to shoot 66 but I knew going out that I needed to get even par (with a 65). I was always doing the catching up and spent most of the round not really doing much. "You could beat yourself up for ever thinking about your mistakes. I made a whole bunch of them. Obviously a 77 was disappointing when the wind was howling on Saturday but it was understandable."

So it was left for Woods to contemplate his best Open finish and a tournament that proved that, even at 22, he is showing much maturity on some unfamiliar links. There was consolation, too, in the victory of Mark O'Meara, his close friend and practice partner. Any message for Mark, he was asked. "Yeah, I'll be asking him for shots."



Woods will win this one day, perhaps next year

Parnevik falls for third time in final straight

Another Open Championship dinged, another chance missed to cleanse the soul. Jesper Parnevik left Royal Birkdale last night the richer by £76,666; it might just as well have been nothing. Three times he has been in at the moment of death in the building of an Open corrida; three times he has failed to apply the final thrust.

Coming into this 127th Open, all 155 players in the field wanted to win, but more than this, Parnevik needed to win. Twice before, he had been in the thick of things at the start of the final mile. Twice before, he had stumbled in the final yard. Catharsis was what Parnevik sought in this Open Championship, not mere money, for money is transient, victory is for ever.

It seemed almost to be written that he would not achieve it. For the second time in as many years, he was in the last two-ball on the course and, if he had had no more than two feet of luck at the right moments, he would have won, so aggressively did he attack the hole.

Seven times in the outward half, he had putts for birdies. Only twice did he hole them. In the coming weeks and months, maybe even years, he will think of them in the dark reaches of the night when sleep has failed to rescue his catalogue of regrets.

There was much talk of

Mel Webb on the torment of a player who has come so close, but remains so far from victory

Woods and O'Meara and Watts and Rose as the final day dawned. The name that seemed to be on few people's lips, or in thousands of columns inches on the written page, was that of Parnevik, yet he had a better record in recent Open Championships than any of them.

This was only his sixth Open and if circumstances had been different, he might have been going for his third victory. To lose one when on the cusp of victory may be considered unlucky, but to fail



Parnevik: unfulfilled

short twice and then three times goes beyond the far side of luck. As he reflected upon his closing 70 last night, he cannot but have concluded that kismet had cruelly deserted him when he needed it most.

He would have pondered, too, on the two that had got away in previous years. In 1994, he had a two-stroke lead on the 72nd hole at Turnberry, failed to look at the leaderboard at the crucial moment, thought he needed a birdie to hold off Nick Price's challenge, went for a bold shot when prudence would have done and bogeyed the hole. An hour later Price had gone eagle-birdie-par and won by a shot.

If Parnevik was irredeemably sad over that, what must have been his feelings when he led the Championship by two strokes going into the final round at Royal Troon last year only to finish with a 73 to finish second again, this time to Justin Leonard's joyous 65? Only he knows, but one thing is assured — it hurt.

Thus it was that he had another chance yesterday to wipe the slate clean, to consign all the agony from those two other Open Championships to the outer recesses of his mind. If only, if only. He did little wrong in this final round. He did not fail — how could he be said to have failed when he had come so far, so well, so courageously? He made only one bad error, and it could not have come at a worse moment. He was through the turn in level par, and then played a truly horrible tee-shot at the short 12th. It missed the green by 25 yards and he had to play over a high, steep hillock. He managed to clear the obstruction, but the ball barely reached the green. Calamity.

Two putts later, his ball was in the hole for four. A good four it was, bearing in mind what had preceded it. In the final analysis, the tee-shot was the one that ended his hopes. Again, he fell short. Again, his terrible, desperate need had gone unfulfilled. He deserved better.

OPEN DIARY Splash out for luxury

WITH THE US Open in 2000 due to be staged at Pebble Beach and the Open Championship scheduled for St Andrews a month later, two of golf's showpieces are guaranteed to celebrate the millennium in style.

Merely being present at either venue would be sufficient for many, but even more enticing is the prospect of arriving at the Open aboard the QE2. Three days before the championship begins, the luxury cruise liner will leave Southampton for a journey up the east coast of Great Britain to the home of golf. During the event, it will be anchored offshore and act as a floating hotel. With all meals, ship-to-shore transfers and admission to the course included, prices will begin at \$299,000.

Statisticians with a sadistic streak had a field day on Saturday as south-westerly winds gusted up to 35mph and prevented any of the 82 players who made the cut from breaking par.

The average score for the day, despite the obvious quality of the field, ballooned to 77.49, with six holes — the 1st, 2nd, 6th, 10th, 11th and 16th playing more than half a stroke over par. There were 505 bogeys, 83 double-bogeys, 11 triple-bogeys or worse and just 97 birdies. Included among the 23 players who failed to break 80 were Lee Janzen, the winner of the US Open last month, (80), Justin Leonard, the defending Open champion (82), Nick Price, of Zimbabwe, the 1994 Open champion (82) and Phil Mickelson, for whom an 85 represented by far the worst competitive round of his six-year professional career.

World's finest fail to tame a true monster

Every course on the Open Championship rota possesses a hole that strikes particular fear into the heart. The 17th at St Andrews is a perennial thorn, as is the 11th at Troon, where railway lines rather than a road multiply a player's jitters.

This week, the 6th, measuring 480 yards and a true monster of a par four, has been of similarly relentless difficulty. Rarely, in any championship, on any tour, in any year, has a hole posed so many problems for so many.

The spectators making a beeline for the grandstand behind the green were not unlike those medieval folk who, through a ghastly fascination, felt the need to witness the odd public hanging. Thankfully, golfing victims live to fight again.

"Look Fred, this is that par four that's really a par five," one knowledgeable observer said to his companion, referring to the fact that Birkdale's members play the hole, invariably into the prevailing southerly wind, as a par five.

Open regulars do not wish to see a succession of holes that can easily be tamed, yet, while they revel in watching the game's finest exponents being challenged to the limit, there exists an appreciation of the difference between severity and near-impossibility. As one bogey after another was being recorded, isolated murmurs of sympathetic disapproval could be heard. "I don't know who made this a par four," another spectator said after seeing 11 players, including the likes of Lee Westwood, Nick Faldo, Ernie Els and José María Olazábal, miss the green before Stephen Ames found it in regulation with his second shot.

The championship committee of the Royal and Ancient clearly thought the hole, which did not yield a single birdie on Saturday and only four yesterday, should be a par four, as it had been at the 1983 and 1991 Opens. With every defence available to it — wind direction, a water hazard, an elevated, undulating green and a fiendishly positioned fairway bunker — this assessment was highly debatable. A driver would have been the preferred choice of everyone off the tee. Many found this to be too risky a proposition as a ditch and heavy rough cut into the left-hand corner of the dogleg, while a strategically placed sand trap 262 yards off the tee blocks another option. Laying up short leaves a fearsome fairway wood in excess of 230 yards to an offset green which, from above, resembles the face of Mickey Mouse with

Phil Yates reflects on the hole that left most competitors bewitched, bothered and bewildered throughout the Open

his left ear amputated. This is surrounded by bushes, mounds and grass tall enough to lose a small child. In the official programme, the advice is that the contours of the green require "careful study of borrow and pace". Maybe Shegiki Maruyama, who three-putted from eight feet for a triple-bogey seven, should have had a copy translated into Japanese.

During the championship as a whole, there were 472 attempts to birdie the 6th, with only 16 successful. Bogeys outnumbered pars 219 to 196, there were 34 double-bogeys, five sevens and two eights for a gruesome overall stroke average of 4.62. On Saturday, this increased to 4.89, a quarter of a stroke higher than the corresponding figure for the par-five 17th, which, at 547 yards, is Birkdale's longest.

Had the wind been in the opposite direction, the value of par on the 6th would have been devalued. However, in that instance, the 498-yard 13th would have been into the teeth of it. Either way, one borderline par four was guaranteed to be on the agenda.

In 1983, under the cover of darkness, the green, which lies closest to the coast road, was vandalised by a group protesting the imprisonment of Dennis Kelly. It was daubed with enormous letters, but play continued. No one, it seems, can get the better of the 6th at Royal Birkdale.



Ames: rare success

Phil Yates reflects on the hole that left most competitors bewitched, bothered and bewildered throughout the Open

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FINAL SCORES FROM THE OPEN

Table listing final scores for various players including M O'Meara, J Westwood, J Faldo, E Els, J Olazabal, S Ames, J Leonard, N Price, P Mickelson, and others.

BIRKDALE'S BLACK HOLE

Table showing statistics for the 6th hole at Birkdale, including birdies (16), pars (196), bogeys (219), double bogeys (34), triple bogeys (5), other (2), and stroke average (4.623).

Advertisement for Mizuno Irons featuring the slogan 'IRON AWE.' and 'More Tour victories.' and 'More Tour prize money.' It includes an image of a golf club head and text describing the performance of the irons.

CRICKET

England take one step forward and four back

By ALAN LEE, CRICKET CORRESPONDENT

THE longest England selection meeting of recent times has produced a radical reshuffle and the acknowledgement of a rare young talent. Andrew Flintoff has displaced Ben Hollis as the new kid on the block and features among five changes in the 13-strong party for the fourth Test against South Africa at Trent Bridge.

though the extent to which his chronic back condition was impairing his form and mobility make it merciful that he is passing to have the problem addressed. Hick will be seen by some as an unexciting, even retrograde, replacement, but the fact that the man himself disagrees emphatically is significant.

Nothing restricted the advance of Hick's England career more than his own crushing self-doubts, his inability to cope with the massive expectations and subsequently dismissive scorn. Mentally stronger now, he may yet fulfil himself after more than two years out of Test cricket.

SQUAD

M A Atherton (Lancashire), Age 30, Tests 82; M A Butcher (Surrey) 25; I J Hoggan (Essex) 30; A J Stewart (Surrey), debut; S J Rhodes (Surrey) 25; 78; H Ramprakash (Middlesex) 28; G A Hick (Worcestershire) 22; 46; A Flintoff (Leicestershire) 20; D G Cook (Derbyshire) 22; R D B Croft (Somerset) 24; I D K Smith (Surrey) 28; D Gough (Yorkshire) 27; 23; A C Fraser (Middlesex) 24; A D Mullaly (Leicestershire) 20, 0.

had to make some changes after being outplayed in two successive games. David Graveney, the chairman of selectors, said: "We have to try and win this game." In pursuit of this aim, the selectors spent 3 1/2 hours deciding upon the recall of four players, in addition to what is no more than a possible debut for Flintoff.

Mark Butcher, sidelined by a thumb injury while two rivals have failed in his opening role, returns to link up with Michael Atherton. The middle-order place reluctantly vacated by Graham Thorpe is filled, as expected, by Graeme Hick, while Ashley Giles and Dean Headley make way for Ian Salisbury and Alan Mullaly among the bowlers.

The same may be said of Salisbury, whose previous excursion into the Test side were undermined by the habit of bowling at least one ball per over that good players considered a gift. Intensive coaching by Terry Jenner, the Australian, has produced a bowler of greater control and, crucial to the leg-spinner, more philosophical temperament.

However, David Lloyd, the coach, has been promoting eagerly the cause of Flintoff and the fact that the three selectors watched Hollis have another disappointing match for Surrey at Guildford last week will have counted in favour of the Lancastrian.

Hollis loses one-day reins

By ALAN LEE



Adam Hollis: demoted

IT WAS not a good day for the Hollises. On the morning that Ben took a call informing him that he had lost his place in the Test squad without even playing, elder brother Adam's telephone also brought bad news. He has been replaced by Alec Stewart as captain of the England one-day side for the triangular tournament next month.

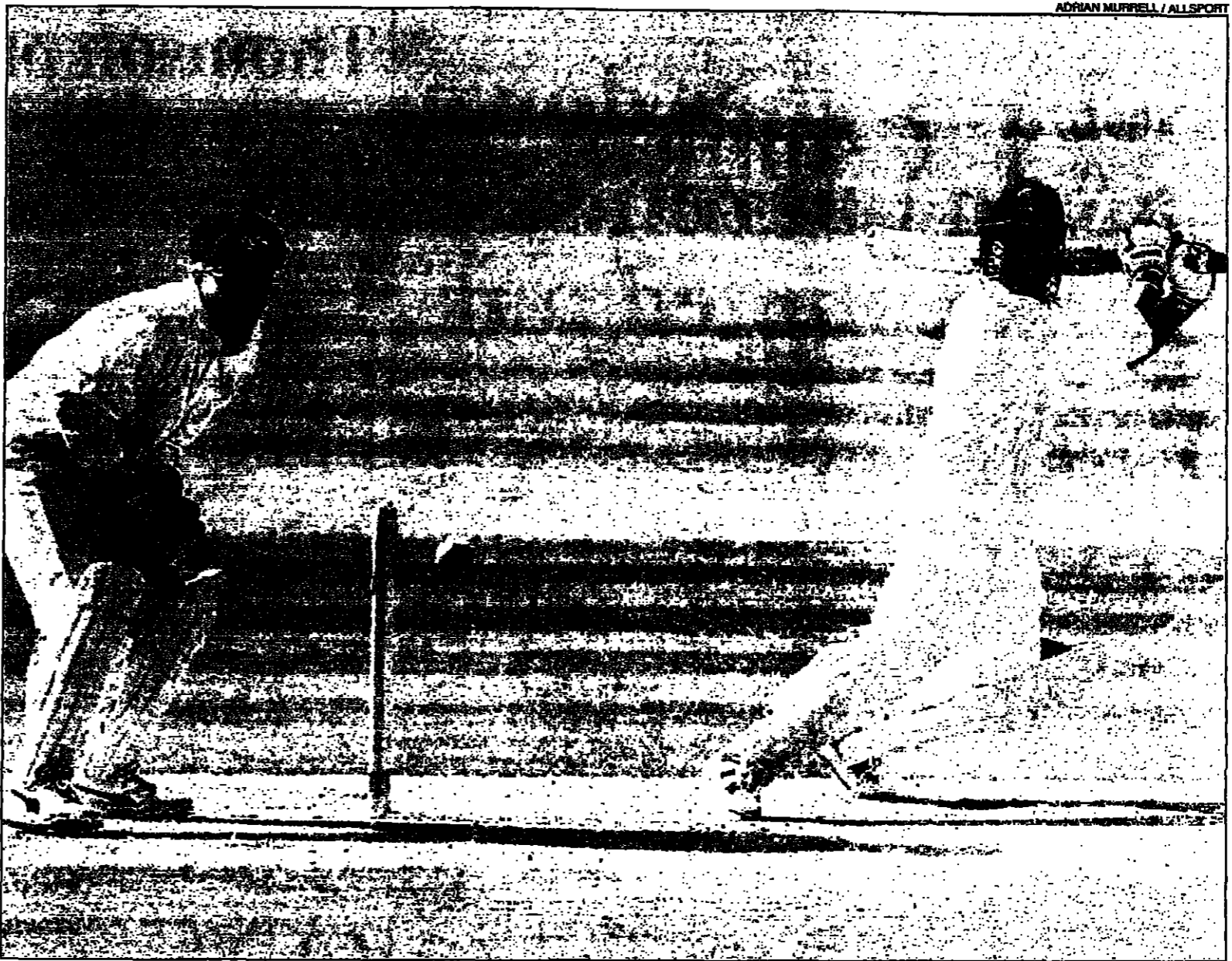
Unable to secure a Test match place in the top six of the batting order, he now finds himself having to compete for his one-day position, too, and the declining influence of his bowling does not help his cause. Nevertheless, his demotion deserves sympathy, for he brought some innovation and instinct to the job and led England to their only recent one-day trophy in Sharjah last autumn.

with his final at Lord's on August 16. Stewart had not been pressing to expand his portfolio and his close relationship with Hollis — his captain at Surrey — meant there was no animosity over the issue. Hollis will be dismayed, however, for his international career is now at a crossroads.

David Graveney, the chairman of selectors, told Adam Hollis that it was felt "the goalsposts have moved slightly", a reference to the fact that Stewart's automatic role in the one-day team questions the purpose and wisdom of him handing over the captaincy.

captains and we are very conscious of Alec's heavy workload, but we want to see how he goes in the job and the short tournament next month is an ideal opportunity," Graveney said. Sri Lanka and South Africa form the opposition in a round-robin event

at the MCC Bicentenary Test of 1997, was elevated by Roger Harper's run-out of Graham Gooch, then Tendulkar lifted this one with his whole innings. It became as much an exhibition as the collection of paintings in the Lord's Museum commemorating the good doctor's 150th birthday.



Tendulkar, the Rest of the World captain, dispatches the ball during a swashbuckling century against MCC in the memorial match at Lord's

In the years ahead, when those who were at Lord's recollect the events of that day, they will not think of Diana, Princess of Wales, or of W. G. Grace. The contest staged as a tribute to both developed from lethargic beginnings into a celebration of the gifts of one man.

Masterful Tendulkar delivers fitting tribute

Richard Hobson watches the supremely talented

Indian batsman outshine an all-star cast at Lord's

A crowd of just below the 30,000 capacity sat through two-thirds of the game between MCC and the Rest of the World quiet and impartial, approving but unemotional. The random distribution of the players, with those of the same nationality in opposition, had threatened to suffocate the day with a blanket of indifference. When Sachin Tendulkar had his eye set, everybody swung behind him.

too. How often has he been lofted back over his head? Rusty, maybe, but anybody who feels McGrath might have been holding back does not know the Australian psyche. "Everybody out there was trying, even though it lacked that competitive edge and the result was not important," Michael Atherton, the MCC captain, said.

Tendulkar, whose 125 from 114 balls was his first century on the ground, admits that he knows little of W. G. On being bowled by Kumble, he did not think to replace the bats and

call to the umpires, "windy day today", as Grace purportedly did once on hitting his wicket. It is interesting that Grace, the player from the Corinthian era, is considered a master of the sharp practice, a lovable rogue, while Tendulkar's reputation is unblemished.

and meant that the highest individual score, Shivnarine Chanderpaul's unbeaten 127, would be rather overlooked. Coverage was beamed back to India and Australia and, intriguingly, to the United States on a pay-per-view basis. With money still arriving via pledges from Australia and New Zealand, the event may raise close to £1 million for the Princess's Memorial Fund.

SCOREBOARD FROM LORD'S. MCC won last. MCC: M A Atherton c and b Marshall 28, D G Cook 28, S J Rhodes 25, I J Hoggan 30, A J Stewart 25, S J Rhodes 25, G A Hick 22, A Flintoff 20, D G Cook 22, R D B Croft 24, I D K Smith 28, D Gough 27, A C Fraser 24, A D Mullaly 20. Rest of the World: S T Jayasuriya b and b Smith 125, S T Jayasuriya 100, S T Jayasuriya 100, S T Jayasuriya 100, S T Jayasuriya 100.

SATURDAY'S SCOREBOARDS

BRITANNIA ASSURANCE COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP. Essex v Kent. SOUTHAMPTON: First day of four! Kent 239 (beat Essex 191 by two wickets). ESSEX: First innings 228, 2nd 228. SOUTHAMPTON: First innings 284 (C L Hooper 100, D W Fulford 50, M C Butt 4 for 91).

Third women's one-day international

England v Australia. HOVE (Australia won last): Australia beat England by 55 runs. AUSTRALIA: 101 (C. Edwards 44, M. K. Richardson 37, S. E. Jackson 27, S. E. Jackson 27, S. E. Jackson 27).

Gloucestershire hope to blunt Surrey's edge

IT WAS quite a week for the teams that aspire to win the Britannia Assurance county championship. Surrey, leaders, were convincingly at Guildford after being bowled out on the first day for 150 and there were good wins for the four sides immediately thereafter.

Championship Commentary

Lancashire, who have won their past four matches, will be without Atherton, Flintoff and the injured Fairbrother when they go to Colwyn Bay on Wednesday. Now is the moment of truth for the red rosette county, who have not always punched their weight in championship cricket.

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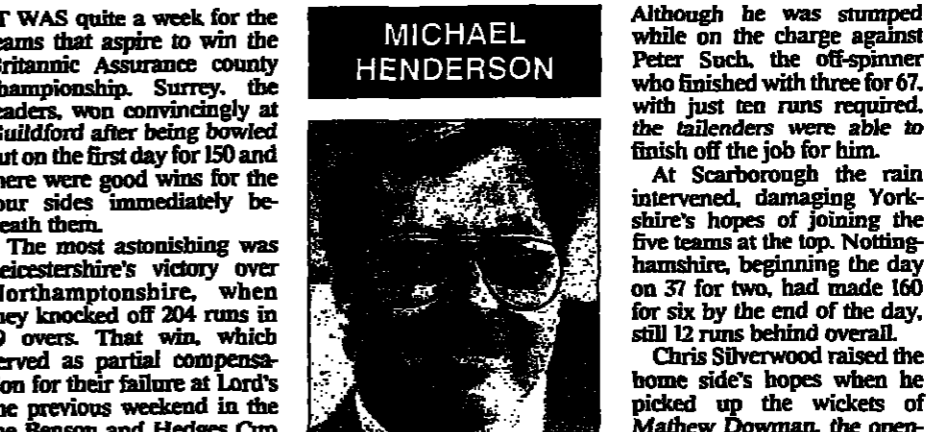
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LEADING FIRST-CLASS AVERAGES. Batting: Qualification: 6 completed innings. G Kirsten (South Africa) 102.12, J Langer (Middlesex) 89.38, M J Lloyde (Northants) 85.25, D B Campbell (South Africa) 76.16.

LEICESTERSHIRE. P V Swann c and b Taylor 14, V J Walcott 14, B F Smith 10, D J Mackay c Rose b Taylor 10, P A Nixon c Parbery b Curran 2, A Hobb 1, M B Lloyde b Maddy 11, C J Lewis c Lloyde b Rose 11, D W Pridmore 11, J M Dalish c Folkes b Spaans 17, J M Dalish c Folkes b Spaans 17, J M Dalish c Folkes b Spaans 17.

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MICHAEL HENDERSON

Although he was stumped while on the charge against Peter Such, the off-spinner who finished with three for 67, with just ten runs required, the tailenders were able to finish off the job for him.

Gloucestershire v Sussex. CHELTENHAM (Sussex won last): Gloucestershire (Aps) beat Sussex by 35 runs. GLOUCESTERSHIRE: R I Dawson b Robinson 60, T H Hancock b Kirtley 7, M W Allyne b Robinson 7, M W Allyne b Robinson 7, M W Allyne b Robinson 7.

Leicestershire v Northamptonshire. LEICESTER (Northamptonshire won last): Northamptonshire (Aps) beat Leicestershire by five wickets. LEICESTERSHIRE: R I Dawson b Robinson 60, T H Hancock b Kirtley 7, M W Allyne b Robinson 7, M W Allyne b Robinson 7, M W Allyne b Robinson 7.

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BOXING: THOMPSON WINS WORLD TITLE REMATCH

Eubank goes down again but refuses to be counted out

BY SRIKUMAR SEN, BOXING CORRESPONDENT

CHRIS EUBANK is to take a long rest to think about his future after his second defeat by Carl Thompson, of Manchester, on Saturday. He was bitterly disappointed that he was prevented by Paul Thomas, the referee, from continuing after the ninth round of the World Boxing Organisation cruiserweight championship, because of a closed eye. However, having failed to make headway as a cruiserweight, he said that he would leave it to the public to tell him whether he should continue boxing.

"Ask me what I'm going to do in September," he said. "Right now, I'm not even thinking about my future. I'm going to leave it to the public to tell me. I would like *The Sun* to have a poll of its readers to tell me what they think."

While the crowd might be happy to cheer him to the rafters when he is in the ring — and his reception at the Sheffield Arena moved him to tears — it would be surprising if the public gave him the support and encouragement that he is expecting. After all, he has now failed in five successive world championship bouts, against Steve Collins (twice) and Joe Calzaghe at super-middleweight and his two defeats by Thompson.

The public will see that while he still has the heart, the strength and the chin, he is too small for the

heavier divisions. His punches no longer have the desired effect on the bigger men and Eubank himself is taking blows that he would have avoided when he was a super-middleweight. To land his own punches, he is having to take blows from heavier men.

As Collins said: "He should not carry on for his own physical health, but I think he'll take a long break and come back as a light-heavyweight. His punches will have more effect in that division. It would have been nice to see him win, but Chris needs to be protected from himself. The sixth round was the turning point. After his eye was closed, he took a lot of punishment. Thompson's a big man, he probably weighed 14 stone tonight."

Eubank said: "I wouldn't like to be known as a person who doesn't know when he's had enough. As far as I'm concerned, I've given good value for money. The fans are ecstatic. They clap and cheer."

"That doesn't sound like I'm a person who needs saving from himself. There are no signs I'm dwindling. People who support me in a heartfelt way will tell me when it's time to stop."

"I wasn't hurt in this fight. When the referee said he was stopping it, I told him: 'What are you doing? I'm all right.' I'm not going to hospital. Last time, it was very painful. This

time, it's only a closed eye. Even now, the eye is beginning to open."

If Eubank does not quit, it will be a sad commentary on a man who hated the sport when he was champion and now wants to hang on to it when he cannot succeed. Sadly, whatever the public might say, Eubank's decision will depend on his belief that he was winning and that a defeat on account of a closed eye was not a decisive result.

Eubank admitted that he might have taken the bout too early after his last punishing contest with Thompson. The left eye had not healed and looked distinctly swollen and discoloured before the bout. He could convince himself that things would have been different if he had met Thompson after his eye had healed properly.

No doubt he will also be cheered by the fact that two of the judges had him in front by three rounds at the time of the stoppage. One judge even gave him the ninth, a round that he lost badly. Clearly, he stood a good chance of winning if he had been allowed to continue.

Perhaps Frank Warren, his promoter, will point out to him that the third judge, Roy Francis, of Great Britain, had him level and Eubank could well have lost the fight on Francis's card because Thompson was well on top at that stage. If the other judges could not see that, Francis certainly could. I had Thompson three rounds ahead with the fight well in his control. Eubank would have needed a knockout to win and, since his sight was impaired, that was unlikely.

Eubank will not make any decision without consulting Warren about his prospects, not so much of winning a title as making money from an important challenge. Since the only lucrative contest is one against Roy Jones at light-heavyweight, Eubank could well come down a division, if Warren thinks he can manoeuvre him into the ratings for a bout with Jones, who was also in action on Saturday night.

He survived a knockdown to earn a unanimous points decision over Lou Del Valle, his former sparring partner, in New York, adding Del Valle's World Boxing Association belt to his own World Boxing Council title.

Thomson presents case for funding



Underneath the arch: competitors race towards the finish of the swim section in the Ironbridge triathlon on Saturday

On the bridge that marks the birthplace of the industrial revolution, Great Britain's triathlon revolution took another step forward at the weekend. Two centuries ago, men came to Ironbridge to realise their dreams. On Saturday, it provided a service station for one woman attempting to realise hers.

Beth Thomson recorded yet another success for the group of Australian triathletes who have switched allegiance to Britain knowing that Olympic places should come more easily here than back home. Together with Andrew Johns, who has won British and European titles since arriving from Australia last month, Thomson has been demonstrating her world-class talent.

In five weeks, Thomson has won the European junior title and taken the honours at two of the leading events in Britain — Windsor and Ironbridge. Aged 20, she will be the favourite to win the world junior title in Lausanne next month, where her main rivals are likely to be Melanie Mitchell and Nicole Hackett, both of Australia. "Former team-mates and friends," Thomson said. "Eerie."

David Powell witnesses a performance of sheer class from a born-again Briton

Thomson's mother is from Bromley, her father from Glasgow, but she was born in Perth, Australia. Coming from the world's No 1 triathlon nation, Thomson and others have returned to their British roots — to further their careers. While Johns says he is not interested in visiting his birthplace and was competing for his Swiss club at the weekend, Thomson seems more anxious to be seen to be British.

"Ironbridge was not on my race schedule at the beginning of the year, but since I am racing for Britain, I decided to do it to get myself better-known," she said.

The British Triathlon Association (BTA) has welcomed the Australians, the International Triathlon Union has approved the move and the Australian federation voiced no objection. "I think they are regretting let me go," Thomson said, having won at Ironbridge, where she finished five minutes ahead of the runner-

up, Lena Waldquist, from Sweden, completing the 2,700-metre swim, 90-kilometre ride and 21-kilometre run in 4hr 48min 15sec.

The BTA has recently been awarded £270,000 in National Lottery funding, with 12 athletes put immediately on to the elite programme, including one former Australian, Clare Carney. Now Johns and Thomson are being put forward for funding. "I think I have shown I am worthy," Thomson said on Saturday.

Although many leading British triathletes, such as Spencer Smith, Annaleah Emmerson and Sian Brice, have voiced either limited or no objections, the first loud cry of "foul" has been heard. In a letter to *Triathlete* magazine, Marc Jenkins, one of the 12 elite, rages at the BTA. "Being a young British athlete attempting to qualify for the Olympic Games, I have been put in a very frustrating position," Jenkins writes. "What little faith the BTA must have in its own system. The BTA's aim does not

appear to be to improve home-grown talent, only to replace it. Do you really want Brits to cheer for anyone wearing a British vest?"

However, as Jenkins points out, since eligibility under International Olympic Committee rules takes three years, only approval as a special case by the IOC would allow Johns and Thomson in for Sydney 2000.

Matt Belfield, the men's winner at Ironbridge, is far removed from the Cornishian ideal. For him, triathlon is a living, nothing more. Belfield was less concerned with his victory margin than the size of his cheque, adding that triathlon could never be a hobby for him.

Belfield, a world team gold medal-winner with Spencer Smith and Simon Lessing in 1993, gave up the sport in 1994 because it was costing him too much. He went on the dole, tried working as a fitness instructor, but has returned to give it another go. If he does not start to earn within a year, he will give it up again, he said.

"I have a sponsor, but only for kit, no money," Belfield said. "You do not want kit, you want money. I am skint and the £1,000 for winning here is my first payday since May."



Eubank's eye is examined before the ninth-round stoppage

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SPEEDWAY

England secure series win

By TONY HOARE

AFTER England Under-21 had won the international series against the full Scotland team at Berwick on Saturday, Graham Reeve, one of the England team managers, predicted that his riders would go on to form the nucleus of the senior England side.

"The youngsters rode to a 53-43 success and a 2-1 series win at Berwick as the Scots did everything they could to win the third and deciding contest. With five races remaining, Scotland levelled the scores, with James Grieves and David Meldrum scoring maximum points from their heat, but then English strength told as they won three of the remaining four heats.

Reeve, who is joint-manager with John Davis, said: "There was a great team spirit which pulled us through and if this is what we can produce for the future for England, then it is going to be fabulous. Each of these riders has the greatest ability to go on and become an England regular and I'm full of excitement."

Scotland's chances were dented when Scott Lamb, the Berwick captain, crashed heavily in the thirteenth heat and could take no further part in the meeting because of concussion. The series marked Scotland's re-emergence on the international scene after an absence of more than a decade and Bert Harkins, the Scotland manager, is pressing for the country to gain entry to world championship events.

"We have shown in this series that Scotland has a lot of potential," Harkins said. "I have been going through the authorities to try to get Scotland into the World Team Cup and world pairs next season.

"We are nowhere near as strong as the full England team, but could hold our own against some of the smaller speedway countries. I hope it can be something for our young riders to aim for."

Henderson rewarded for community spirit

By JOHN GOODBODY

FEW things can bring divided communities together as successfully as sport. In 1972, the gold medal of Mary Peters, the athlete, at the Olympic Games in Munich gave the people of Northern Ireland a sense of joint identity and a shared happiness in the midst of their troubles.

The idea of sport being a healer is also a mission for Jennifer Henderson, 15, at Wellington College in Belfast. Living quite close to the centre of the city, she is unhappily familiar with the fires and bombings, the deaths and personal tragedies. They surround her every day.

Her outstanding enthusiasm and plans to develop closer links between the communities in Northern Ireland have won her the Passion for Sport award of BBC Radio 5 Live.

The motto of the competition, which this year had 2,500 entries, double the number of 1997, is: "You don't have to win to come first." Catherine Brown, of the BBC, who chaired one of the judging panels, said: "We don't want to be too worthy, but we are impressed by a selflessness that wants to share the enthusiasm that individuals have."

"A community project is tremendously important. We are astonished by the level of creativity. One youngster even put forward a programme for developing swimming in Ghana."



IN SCHOOLS

Last Thursday, the panels, which included celebrated figures such as Roger Black and Allan Lamb, Iwan Thomas and Alison Nicholas, interviewed the 12 regional winners, nine girls and three boys. Brown said: "They were so good. It is really splitting hairs to separate them at this stage."

However, Henderson's proposal involved Catholic and Protestant schools coming together once a month with well-known figures of sport being invited to coach them in a variety of activities. Children would have the opportunity to play unfamiliar sports, with Protestants trying Gaelic football, for example. Henderson called her project "Mad Cabs", the acronym from "Making a Difference: Children United by Sport".

Henderson's enthusiasm has been nurtured and welcomed by Hazel Carson, her PE teacher, a person she regards as "more like a friend than a teacher".

Carson said: "It just makes my job so much easier having

that enthusiasm around. If everyone was like her, it would be great." Much of her £1,500 prize-money will go towards funding equipment and facilities for her school.

Carson added: "What we are looking for at Wellington College is a lifetime commitment to sport and this is what Henderson shows. There is a tremendous drop-out rate at the ages of 14-15. Girls change interests and I think that some youngsters think that it is not cool to be successful."

Nicky Cottrell, the North-West regional winner, from Wirral G.S., damaged her back trampolining, but is not resentful. "The sport is one of the many memories I will treasure," she remains keen on netball, has also taken up rugby and watches Everton play football. Did she see the final game last season when they avoided relegation from the FA Carling Premiership? "No. I didn't. I don't think I could have stood it."

Anna Melvin, the Greater London winner, who goes to Drayton Manor High School in Ealing, is a keen athlete, basketball player and footballer. Melvin is inspired by Kelly Holmes, with whom she sometimes trains in west London. She said: "As a result of Kelly's achievements, my self-belief has increased and I have become more determined."

She is now going to concentrate on the 400 metres, with possibly the hurdles as an option. Is she the next Sally Gunnell? "Well, why not?"



Henderson, worthy winner of the BBC Radio 5 award. Photograph: Alan Lewis

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0500 3

Jeremy Whittle says France should not be surprised by the 'Festina Affair'

Worried organisers braced for more Tour revelations

THE small and shabby Chez Gillou café, close to the Gare Corze near Brive, passed into French sporting folklore when Richard Virenque, the leader of the shamed Festina team and the most popular cyclist in France, broke down in tears as he bid farewell to the 1998 Tour de France.

Virenque and his teammates were kicked out of the Tour late on Friday night after the admission to police investigators by Bruno Roussel, the team manager, of systematic drug abuse. The Societe du Tour de France may now hope that the race can continue unhindered, but many are convinced that the so-called "Festina Affair" is merely the first in a series of damning revelations.

It is more than 30 years since Tom Simpson, the British rider, collapsed and died during the Tour de France, but the long-standing problem of drug abuse has now moved to the top of professional cycling's agenda.

Simpson, who collapsed with heat exhaustion and then suffered cardiac failure, died on the brutal slopes of Mont Ventoux on a searing day in 1967, in pursuit of his dream of Tour victory. Evidence of amphetamine use was found in his baggage and his racing kit. A year earlier, doping tests had been tentatively introduced at the Tour, only to provoke a revolt by riders. Yet the litany of positive tests and rumours of doping abuse in professional cycling since then has only highlighted the failure of the UCI, cycling's governing body, to address the problem.

The Tour heads south into the Pyrenees today. Tomorrow and Wednesday, the field will climb nine mountain passes, probably in the wilying heatwave that has settled on the South of France. Such brutal tests, which all too often take the leading competitors beyond their natural physical limits, are demanded by spectators and by cycling's pay-



masters, the European television broadcasters.

These stages will be grueling punishment for fastidiously prepared riders who, after nine days and 1,500 kilometres of racing, will push themselves to the brink of exhaustion, in many cases merely to stay in the race the next day.

The Tour's culture of suffering has made it the most renowned endurance event in the world, but over recent years, as the stakes have increased, it has put enormous pressure on the riders. That pressure comes from sponsors, who expect to be represented in cycling's global shop window at all costs.

However, possible redundancy at the end of this season hovers over approximately 50 per cent of the riders in the field. For many, the race is not about winning or losing but

merely about impressing their team managers sufficiently to guarantee a contract for next year.

Festina's all-star team were certainly motivated in their search for honours. Virenque has been on the brink of victory for the past few seasons and, supported by Alex Zülle, cycling's highest-paid rider, he had staked everything on victory this year.

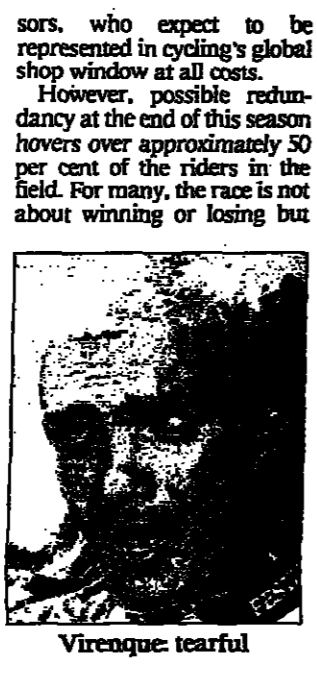
They led a team with an annual budget of about Fr 30 million (about £3 million) and Festina, the Andorra-based watch company, has strong links to the Tour. It is contracted to provide the timing systems until 2003, with an agreement worth Fr 5 million a year.

The decision to throw French cycling's folk hero out of the race, together with his powerful team, was neither easy nor popular for Jean-Marie Leblanc, the Tour director. Yesterday, on the sun-baked roads of the Lot region, the decision found little favour with the tens of thousands of fans at the roadside. "Why Festina and not the others?" one banner read. "Virenque — a victim of the system," was another.

That system makes demands on the riders that no other sportsman endures. Mario Cipollini, the Italian sprinter, who has won two stages this year, has complained bitterly of the restrictions imposed on him. "No other sportsman make all the sacrifices we have to," he said. "I don't see my wife and child for months — maybe I should have been a footballer or a golfer instead."

The affair has also prompted concern at the highest level. Jacques Chirac, the French President, has urged the eradication of the use of drugs and yesterday Bernard Kouchner, the health minister, whose father was a doctor on the Tour 30 years ago, described the cyclists as "slaves" of sponsors and the media.

System makes demands on the riders that no other sportsmen endure



Virenque: tearful



Durand, of France, celebrates his win in yesterday's eighth stage

Ullrich is undermined by surprise breakaway

LAURENT DESBIENS, of France, a stage-winner in the 1997 Tour de France, surprised Jan Ullrich, of Germany, the defending champion, to become the sixth rider to wear the yellow jersey in the 1998 Tour after yesterday's eighth stage to Montauban.

Desbiens was one of a group of seven riders, which included Andrea Tafi, the Italian national champion, and Jacky Durand, the popular Frenchman, who moved clear of the field after

FROM JEREMY WHITTLE IN MONTAUBAN

85 kilometres of racing through the Dordogne.

"In the opening stages, I rode at the back of the field, because I was looking after our team leaders," Desbiens said, "and I didn't have the chance to ride for myself."

On a stiflingly hot day, neither Ullrich, the favourite, who won the long time-trial in Corzeze on Saturday, nor his Telekom team, showed any inclination to chase the leaders. With 20 kilometres still to race, the breakaway group led the field by over nine minutes and the race lead passed on to the 28-year-old shoulders of Desbiens.

On the fast approach to Montauban, the group looked likely to split up, as both Tafi and Durand fought in vain to break free and score a solo victory, but as they entered the finishing straight, Durand sprinted past a faltering Tafi to take the third Tour win of his career and the first French stage victory of the 1998 race.

"I've attacked in several stages this year, but all for nothing," Durand said. "As we came to the finish, I was worried about Tafi, but with the Pyrenees coming up, it was today or never for me, so

I gave it everything in the sprint."

In the 58-kilometre time-trial, Ullrich mastered a tricky course to confirm his status as favourite for outright victory in Paris. It was a fourth stage win for Ullrich in three years, but although he was delighted with the stage success, the 24-year-old German will have noted the strong performances of several of his leading rivals.

Bo Hamburger, of Denmark, the winner of the Fleche Wallonne spring Classic,

Results _____ 36

Prebble manages to get clean away

■ CYCLING: Richard Prebble, who entered the national 100-mile time trial championship only yesterday to give his Team Clean squad a third rider, raced away with the title, beating Kevin Dawson, the defending champion (Peter Bryan writes). Only 5sec separated the pair at the finish, but it was a nailbiting wait for Prebble, who had started 35 minutes ahead of Dawson and recorded 3hr 42min 47sec.

Prebble, who hardly raced last year because of work commitments, made his mark when he tied for first place with Ian Gilkes in the British 50-mile trial a month ago. Gilkes was fastest to the halfway point yesterday in 1hr 49min 0.6sec; Prebble was 14sec slower, followed by Dawson and then Sean Yates, who finished third. Prebble, who lost 4sec to Dawson over the final 50 miles, said: "I felt a bit tropy at the start, but quickly picked up only to have another bad patch between 50 and 60 miles."

Fisher's triumph

■ WATER SKIING: Jodie Fisher, 28, won the men's slalom final at the British national championships at the Battleday Ski School near Reading. Fisher, the holder, won with a score of five boys on the 11-metre line. Glen Campbell finished second and Matthew Southern third. Jason Seels, 23, retained the men's overall title after winning the trick event and the jump title. Tom Asher was second and Chris Shaw third. Sarah Gatty-Saunty, 22, took the women's overall title for the first time, having been runner-up for the last four years.

Adrian Cummings

■ BASKETBALL: Adrian Cummings, 30, the former England international, collapsed and died at a training session with London Towers at Crystal Palace on Friday evening. He is believed to have suffered a heart attack, and was dead on arrival at hospital, despite being revived temporarily by paramedics. Cummings suffered a blackout two weeks ago, but doctors cleared him to continue his career.

Catenaro suspended

■ ICE HOCKEY: Angelo Catenaro, the captain of Ayr Scottish Eagles, has been suspended for one month after testing positive for pseudoephedrine. Pat Marsh, the British Ice Hockey Association's drugs test liaison officer, confirmed that the test was carried out after the Eagles had beaten Cardiff Devils 2-1 in the Superleague play-off final in March. Ayr won all four trophies last season.

Novotna wilts in heat

■ TENNIS: Jana Novotna, the Wimbledon champion, performed sluggishly in temperatures of 100F and was beaten 6-3, 7-6 by Amanda Coetzer in the semi-final of the A & P Tennis Classic in Mahwah, New Jersey. "I made so many mistakes, it's as simple as that," Novotna said. In the other semi-final, Steffi Graf, right, defeated Fang Li 3-6, 6-2, 6-2.



Cup attracts large field

■ RIFLE SHOOTING: The best of Great Britain's target shooters and visiting competitors from several Commonwealth countries will go to Bisley's 300-yard range in Relays today to shoot for The Times Challenge Cup. The competition is part of the Grand Aggregate, the overall championship of the meeting, which takes up most of the week, with events at short and long ranges.

Power surge

■ SQUASH: Jonathon Power, of Canada, became the first overseas player in 16 years to win the Australian Open men's championship when he beat Anthony Hill, of Australia, in the final in Adelaide yesterday. Power, the top seed, won 15-10, 15-8, 15-8. Hill, No 9 in the world, had caused a big upset in getting to the final, beating Rodney Eyles on Saturday.

Brisky business

■ GOLF: Mike Brisky earned a share of the lead alongside Fred Funk with a round of 64, six under par, after three rounds of the Deposit Guaranty Golf Classic in Madison, Mississippi. In Geneva, David Park, of Wales, had a birdie at the first hole of a sudden-death play-off to win the Rolex Trophy.

BOWLS

England on course for victory

ENGLAND look certain to win the women's under-25 home international series at Royal Leamington Spa after overwhelming Ireland 120-49 and edging home 89-74 against Scotland yesterday (David Rhye Jones writes).

Carol Haney, of Cumbria, skipped her rink to a 42-7 win over Sheelagh McCafferty in the morning, then returned a splendid 31-12 card against Vicky Lamont's quartet after lunch, when Amy Goshall suffered a rare defeat at the hands of Sharon Burns.

Wales looked good against Scotland after ten ends, but faded badly in the second half to lose by 32 shots, before chalking up a face-saving win over Ireland in the afternoon.

The Welsh team must also face up to losing three key skips next summer: Sam Smith, Helen Rhian Jones and Anwen Butten, who will be too old next year, were all in the inaugural junior series back in 1988, when they were only 15.

■ Andrew Smith, of Welford-on-Avon, qualified for the quarter-finals of the All-England Champion of Champions singles. However, Terry James, of Thrapston, who won the event in 1996, was beaten in the Nottingham area final by Gavin Smith, from Ilkeston Rutland.

ROWING

Survivor Searle claims treble

GREG SEARLE survived wind on Saturday and continuous rain yesterday to finish the national championships with three titles to his credit. He retained his single sculls title and was then involved in the winning quad scull and men's eight.

Searle was chased home in the sculls by Mike Webb, an international in 1995, but there was disappointment in the last-minute withdrawal of James Di Luzio, the leading Great Britain junior. Di Luzio progressed smoothly to the final against older opponents, but a slight chest infection and the prevailing soaking conditions caused Mark Banks, his coach, to consider discretion the better part of valour with the world junior championships approaching.

The quad and eight were last-minute combinations, the idea of Harry Mahon, Searle's New Zealand-born coach, who said: "It is good to support the national championships with some squad people."

The women's eights was club, rather than squad, orientated. Thames excelling with gold and bronze medals, split by Upper Thames. This final — and its subsequent medal ceremony in the prevailing cold downpour — caused the organisers to abandon subsequent ceremonies, for two women were treated for hypothermia.

Katherine Grainger, the Scottish champion sculler, from St Andrew, enlivened the

By MILE ROSEWELL

drenched Scottish crowd with an outstanding performance in the women's sculls. Grainger, who missed out on British international selection to Cuijn Batten this year, opted subsequently to continue in her scull rather than return to rowing. She made her point yesterday.

Hamish Burrell, her coach, gave her a target: "Win by four sets of buoys." Grainger did better, putting seven sets of buoys, representing about 70 metres, between her and Melindi Myers, the silver medal-winner. "I don't always do what my coach says," Grainger said.

Kevin Plank, the Scottish men's champion, failed to emulate Grainger in an eventful lightweight men's sculls final, in which Rob McKenzie, of Twickenham, capsized while challenging for bronze just before the finish. Ned Kitoe, who has been selected as stroke of the British lightweight quad, won the gold medal, 3sec ahead of Plank.

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Baister chosen to arrest Brittle's turbulent reign



Baister: larger than expected majority

THE backbone of English rugby — the clubs and counties — voted yesterday to terminate Cliff Brittle's controversial 30 months as chairman of the Rugby Football Union's (RFU) management board.

David Hands, rugby correspondent, on the task facing a former police chief of restoring order to a sport paralysed by disunity

committee, with the objective of avoiding a repetition of disastrous tour to the southern hemisphere this summer; to ensure a viable structured season giving quality games to England's leading clubs; and to hasten the appointment of a new chief executive.

He also indicated a willingness to work with Brittle and Fran Cotton, his political opponents, despite the fact that Cotton has yet to decide whether to press ahead with a special general meeting in September.

He dictates, and he obstructs democratically-reached decisions." Smith's powerful address was supported by Geoff Cooke, the former England manager, who is now Bedford's chief executive and whose criticism embraced Cotton — his successor in 1997 as the Lions manager.

The English game will hope that what Cotton referred to as a "cesspit of lies and innuendo" can now recover some unity and dignity under Baister's chairmanship.



Brittle: presided over internal turmoil

RUGBY LEAGUE: WISE OLD HEADS PREVAIL IN THE END AFTER BATTLING WALES MUFFLE GOODWAY'S YOUNG GUNS

Edwards makes hay as Bulls see red

By Christopher Irvine

THE Edinburgh novices cajoled into booning Shaun Edwards ended up singing his praises. Bradford Bulls supporters, who constituted two-thirds of the 6,363 attendance at Tynecastle on Saturday evening, watched in near-silence as the erstwhile Bradford scrum half led London Broncos to a 22-8 victory and within sight of the play-off positions in the JJB Super League.



Rowley, left, of Emerging England, fails to evade the clutches of the Welsh defence in the international match at Widnes yesterday. Photograph: Jeff Morris

Elder statesmen negotiate England escape

Emerging England 15 Wales 12

By Christopher Irvine

IN HIS pitiful way, Andy Goodway, the coach of Emerging England, hit the right note when he described an attritional affair in the rain at the Auto Quest Stadium, Widnes, yesterday as "not a game of footballing delight".

Despite the narrow victory by his team, Goodway was more anxious to learn lessons ahead of the Great Britain series against New Zealand in the autumn and he felt that the game was turned into a stop-start slog by some pedantic refereeing.

thought that his side were reasonably in control of this Thompson ESG international, 12-8 ahead after 68 minutes, until a big gap opened up for Paul Davidson. At 28, the St Helens second-row forward was one of several elder statesmen in the emerging side who came off the bench to bring some much-needed direction to an at times innocuous England forward line.

Nine of the Wales side were in the team that beat the full England XIII on their way to winning the 1995 European championship on a heady night at Ninian Park, Cardiff. Widnes was not so inspiring, although there was no lack of brave contributions, particularly from Neil Cowie and Iestyn Harris.

Goodway was given some pertinent reminders by Broadbent, a livewire full back and sure pair of hands under pressure. Rowley's

prodigious work-rate at hooker and the two Wigan forwards, Haughton and Gilmour.

Despite the overall poor quality, Goodway said: "What I'm trying to create with these games is an international structure. Rather than persevering with the same players, I want to see them coming under pressure from up and coming and form players and see how these perform in outside of their own environment."

Wales deserve and desperately need to know when and where their next game will be, now that their tour game has been cancelled by New Zealand. There are suggestions that they will play England again in October.

Making the most of their opportunities in the first half, Wales held a deserved four-point lead at the break. They opened up a vulnerable England defence twice

in the opening 15 minutes, the first occasion when Powell swooped on Acheson's inside ball and then when Hammond exploited ample room to free Cunningham.

In England's one productive assault in the opening period, Senior stood up well in the tackle to release Hay. Holroyd added the conversion to an earlier penalty, but, throughout, England were hampered by a lack of communication.

Rowland Phillips, the only returnee from rugby union in the Wales side, found himself put on report two minutes after coming on as a substitute. He appeared to lead with the elbow into Molloy, although even if the Rugby Football League executive committee thinks that he has a case to answer, there is a doubt as to whether it has disciplinary jurisdiction over the London Welsh

forward. Wales finally yielded when Long's smart pass released Davidson on the charge. Heads dropped and Long's late dropped goal completed the England victory.

SCORERS: Emerging England: Tries: Hay, Davidson, Gieffe; Holroyd (5); Dropped goal: Long; Wales: Tries: Powell, Cunningham, Gieffe; Harris (2).

EMERGING ENGLAND: G Broadbent (Salford Road); P Sharpley (Leeds Rhinos), N Molloy (Salford Road), K Senior (Sheffield Eagles), G Cummins (Leeds Rhinos), G Holroyd (Leeds Rhinos), S Long (St Helens), S Molloy (Sheffield Eagles), P Rowley (Halifax Blue Sox), D Peasey (Leeds Rhinos), S Hinchington (Wigan Warriors), A Hay (Leeds Rhinos), L Bamford (Wigan Warriors), Substitutes: M Hilton (Warrington Wolves), P Davidson (St Helens), P Johnson (Wigan Warriors), D Orr (Cardiff RFC).

WALES: P Acheson (St Helens), J Critchley (Cardiff RFC), D Gibson (Halifax Blue Sox), D Powell (Halifax Blue Sox), A Sullivan (St Helens), J Harris (Leeds Rhinos), L Barrie (Warrington Wolves), K Senior (Halifax Blue Sox), K Cunningham (St Helens), N Cowie (Wigan Warriors), D Busby (Hallam), R Eyles (Northdale Harlequins), K Hammond (St Helens), Substitutes: G Shepherson (Sheffield Eagles), Hall (Halifax Blue Sox), P Phillips (London Welsh RL), M Pearson (Halifax Blue Sox). Referee: J Connolly (Wigan).

RUGBY UNION

Mallett sees his charges charter new territory

By David Hands

NOW that South Africa have negotiated successfully an overseas hurdle for the first time in the three-year history of the tri-nations tournament, they must discover if they can repeat it when they play New Zealand in Wellington on Saturday. At least they are prepared for the wind and wet of Athletic Park: their past two internationals have been played in driving rain and thick mud.

A match of muddle and mishap on Saturday, at Subiaco Oval in Perth, the newest of international venues, before a near-capacity crowd of 38,000 (including many expatriate South Africans) demonstrated sport's capricious capacities. In the opening match of the tri-nations, Matt Burke could do no wrong and scored all 24 points for his side as they defeated the All Blacks. Here, the Australia full back found the goalposts only once from five attempts.

On balance, Nick Mallett, the South Africa coach, and his players deserved their success but, as against England in the mud of Cape Town on July 4, his players stuck rigidly to a limited game-plan of penetrate and subdue. Nothing was seen of their back division, which, considering the sustained passage of play that Australia pieced together before George Gregan's try, was a shame.

Mallett will point to the scoreboard in justification, although the victory was in doubt after South Africa failed to take advantage of a series of five-metre scrums on the

Graham Henry, the assistant to John Hart as New Zealand coach, appears to have turned down the chance to coach the Wales national side. The Welsh Rugby Union had wanted him to succeed Kevin Bowring, but David Moffat, chief executive of the New Zealand Rugby Football Union, said that Henry would remain contracted to them until the end of next year.

Australia line with the clock winding down. Instead, they allowed Australia to sweep to the other end and, had Colin Hawke penalised Ollie le Roux for lying all over the ball at a ruck, Burke would have had the latest of chances to win the match for his side.

Australia will be irritated that their tackling, so keen throughout, let them down at a tapped penalty when Joost van der Westhuizen, three metres from the line, checked and nipped through a gap for his 21st international try. He now stands alone at the head of his country's international try-scorers. With Ben Tuite scoring within 100 seconds of the start and Gregan adding another after good work by Stephen Larkham and Tom Bowman, South Africa still needed Percy Montgomery's kicking. His killer blow was a penalty goal from 49 metres after David Wilson was penalised at a ruck.

SCORERS: Australia: Tries: Tuite (2nd), Gregan (3rd); Penalty goal: Burke (4th); South Africa: Try: Van der Westhuizen (27). Penalty goals: Montgomery (3), R. (4), (20). SCORING SEQUENCE: (Australia first) 5-0 5-3 5-6 (half-time: 9-11, 13-11, 15-14). AUSTRALIA: M Burke (New South Wales), B N Tuite (Queensland) rep D P Smith, Queensland, (20m), D J Herbert (Queensland), T J Hoop (Queensland), J W C Holt (Austrian Capital Territory), S Larkham (ACT), G M Gregan (ACT), D J Crowley (Queensland), P H Kearns (NSW), J A Paul, ACT, 21-47, A T Stange (NSW), J A Eales (Queensland), captain, T M Bowman (NSW), M J Cookson (ACT), rep G Fiegans, ACT, 51-71, D J Wilson (Queensland), T S Kellu (Queensland), rep V Osherson, NSW, 48). SOUTH AFRICA: C M Montgomery (Western Province), C M Williams, Western Province, 11-23, G S Toompe (Boland), A H Brynner (Northern Transvaal), P G Muller (Natal), P W G Rossouw (Western Province), A W Herbst (Natal), J H van der Westhuizen (Northern Transvaal), R B Kempton (Natal), rep A H B Rossouw, Natal, 60, J Dalton (Gauteng), A C G Andrew, Natal, K Oso (Northern Transvaal), M G Anderson (Natal), J Erasmus (Free State), Venter (Free State), G M Tschirner (Natal), captain. Referee: G J Hawke (New Zealand).

HOCKEY

Disputed goal blocks South Africa revival

By Sidney Friskin

ENGLAND scraped a 1-1 draw against South Africa at East London yesterday in the second of a series of five international matches. The first match, on Saturday, resulted in a 2-1 win for England.

As in the first match, England had to recover from going a goal behind. The equaliser yesterday by Pearn from Wyatt's long through-pass was disputed by the South Africans, who claimed that he did not touch the ball inside the circle.

England began brightly with a spirited attack, from which a shot by Hall from Garrard's pass just missed the target. From their first short corner, three shots were brilliantly saved by Myburgh, the South Africa goalkeeper.

half, forcing three short corners. The England defence was largely untroubled. England managed to gain the upper hand midway through the second half, but were frustrated when shots from Hoskin, Head, Pearn and Fordham were all saved on the line. Crutchley, of England, was put under temporary suspension for what was termed a professional foul.

South Africa earned nine short corners in the match, six in the first half. England's tally was two in the first period and none in the second. Barry Dancer, the England coach, described the match as "a great and entertaining game of hockey. Our defence was well and truly tested. We created some excellent chances, which we could not convert."

In the match on Saturday, Fulton opened the scoring for South Africa with a goal midway through the first half. Wyatt levelled the score from a penalty stroke in the 26th minute, before scoring the winning goal from a short corner ten minutes into the second half.

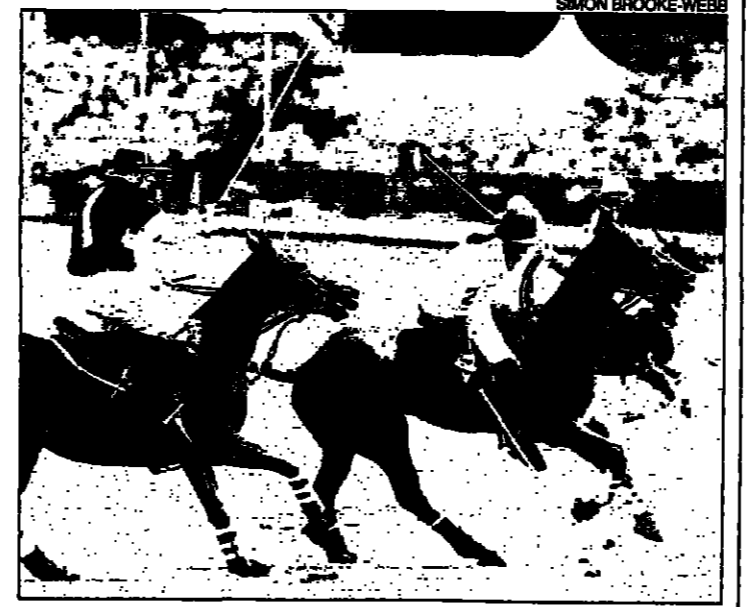
POLO: CAMBIASO AND PIERS STEAL SHOW AS ELLERSTON TRIUMPH

Packer's men show punch to take Gold

By John Watson

THE final of the British Open Championship for the Veuve Clicquot Gold Cup — which has been challenged between 19 teams, deployed in four leagues, over the past three weeks — was staged at Cowdroy Park, Sussex, yesterday. Ellerston, put together by Kerry Packer, defeated CS Brooks (received 1), by 13 goals to 6.

CS Brooks, who are put together by Brook Johnson, the American player, began one goal up on the scoreboard owing to the handicap elevation from 1 to 2 of Jeff Fisher, the Ellerston back. The second advantage of CS Brooks was that their own Back, Sebastian Dawnay, is grossly under-handicapped. Ellerston also started out with distinct credits, not the least of which was pony-power. Packer mounts his team from an extensive quality string, so that, as ponies became tired, his men were able to change them as often as twice in a chukka. There were six chukkas.



Cambiaso, of Ellerston, knocks the ball past Tornalison

Adolfo Cambiaso and Gonzales Piers, Ellerston's central Argentine duo, comprised the dominating factor of the match. Their ball control, long-hitting and close partnership, coupled with the tremendous speed that they extracted from their ponies, gave Ellerston the edge throughout. Cambiaso

scored ten goals, four of them penalty shots. Piers scored the other three. CS Brooks also missed many goal shots. ELLERSTON: J J Bann (1), 2 A Cambiaso (10), 3 G Piers (10), Back J Piers (2). CS BROOKS: 1 L Tomlinson (4), 2 K Novakovic (2), 3 M Novakovic (8), Back S Daverry (2).

TENNIS

Courier plots path to the semi-finals

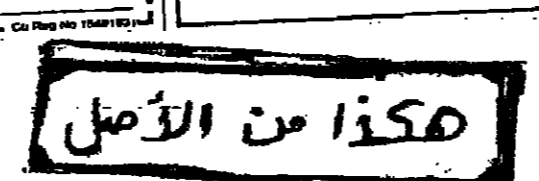
TODD MARTIN and Jim Courier, playing only their third doubles match together, rallied to beat Johan van Herck and Xavier Malisse, of Belgium, in five sets on Saturday to lead the United States into the semi-finals of the Davis Cup.

Courier was playing in his first Davis Cup doubles after replacing Richey Reneberg, who was injured. He and Martin won 5-7, 6-2, 6-7, 7-6, 6-1 to secure the best-of-five tie 3-2.

The United States will meet Italy at home in the semi-finals between September 25-27. Italy reached the last four for the third time in a row when Andrea Gaudenzi and Diego Nargiso beat Byron Black and Wayne Black, of Zimbabwe, 1-6, 7-5, 7-5, 6-3 in their doubles encounter. Spain will meet Sweden, the cup holders, in the other semi-final. Carlos Moya defeated Marc Rosset, of Switzerland, 7-5, 6-1, 7-5 to give Spain a 3-1 winning lead. Sweden defeated Germany by the same score in their quarter-final.

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In the batting of an eyelid, it can go so wrong

I was Gerald Durrell's ambition — he wanted to know if it was true that it didn't hurt — to be bitten by a vampire bat. The problem was staying awake to appreciate the magic moment. Night after night, nothing kept sleep at bay. Then came the time when he started thinking about his overdraft. At a stroke, sleep, and the possibility of sleep, were banished until the morning.

It must be rather like if you play tournament golf. It is the sporting equivalent of lying awake all night worrying about your overdraft while waiting to get bitten by a vampire bat. Watching the faces of two lanky boys playing their final round in the

127th Open Championship made that quite clear.

A lot of sports are about dealing with rather unpleasant things. Pain, for example: the marathon and the 400 metres are both races in which the winner is the runner who has best coped with the wall of pain that awaits at 20 miles or at 300 metres.

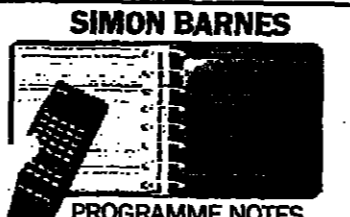
Three-day eventing turns on the cross-country section and cross-country riding is about the way in which you deal with terror. Big flat races test how the jockey deals with the responsibility for somebody else's fortune.

But golf is about worry. A round of championship golf is daylight's equivalent of a sleepless night in bat country thinking about what the bank

is going to do to you. It is not real money that the golfers are worried about: most of the top men, if not already set up for life financially, are doing just about as nicely as a chap could hope to do.

Tiger Woods began his professional career with more money than most people on the planet will ever see, but to see his face yesterday over the course of his final round was to see a man who knew — knew with immense precision — what worry is. It is nothing to do with money. It is to do with golf.

And television is a medium that can capture worry and do so with immense precision. It caught Woods fretting at each shot that failed to meet his steeping standards. Woods



SIMON BARNES PROGRAMME NOTES

was straining and leaning on his own game, knowing that he was capable of raising it steeple-high, but knowing that the magic half-hours in any sport do not come for the asking.

Justin Rose, the second lanky boy, is still unable to buy a legal drink, but knows already a good deal about the quality of worry that drives people to the stuff. The pain of the poor shot, the worrying

responsibility, worry — is to turn difficult, negative things into strong, fierce positives. Sports psychologists get their money for talking about such things — and actually earn it if they can make their athletes pull off the trick.

Over the past four days, the astonishing Master Rose has shown us that he can do exactly that: the hardest trick in sport. After that ugly 20 minutes, he put everything back together again. At the conclusion of each hole, for a whole second he switched off the grown man's expression of acute worry and gave the cameras and the world a brief, heartfelt boy's grin. Then worry, like a thirsty bat, returned.

Woods, the odd year or two

older than Rose and the odd few million or so richer, also did a spot of rebuilding. We caught a moment of perfect overdraft anguish, the face of a man with the repo man on his heels, his hand to face, peak of his cap exaggerating the bow of the head.

Peter Alliss, whose commentaries make big-time golf a pleasure even to me, not the world's most avid enthusiast of the sport, commented on the picture in a series of inarticulate noises: a sigh, a groan and a tut. Perfect commentary, really. And then the chip-in at the 17th and the monster putt at the last. "Weeeeeeeellll," Alliss said, saying it all.

Woods's face lit up with an extraordinary combination of

anxiety and glory. Television cannot bring us the geometry of the course, but it certainly brings us the simple sums of the emotions. Woods had found his best game, but he had done so about ten minutes too late. Perhaps that was worse than never finding it at all. Golf is miserly with its glories, but recklessly generous when it comes to dishing out worry.

And what about Rose? That last hole, a wild tee-shot, an indifferent second and then a huge, looping, floating shot that seemed to be guided by the gods of his game unerringly into the centre of the hole. And then he was a boy again, alight with a boy's joy. "Touched," Alliss asked, "with greatness?"

'This was a brilliant Open for the sexification of a sport that labours under the old-bore image'

Alliss's intimate patter detracts from sex appeal

I made the mistake of watching the Open on telly on Saturday, wrapped in a blanket on somebody's sofa. The advantages of the horizontal comfy position are obvious, but there is one serious drawback. I refer, of course, to the way Peter Alliss's tributes to his clubhouse cronies burrow under your skin and jiggle about there, like weavils in a biscuit. Scurvy would be a picnic in comparison to this. Alliss's patter has a double action. I find it draws you in but excludes you; lets you join the club, but only to loiter on the periphery of a private conversation. Just when I think I like him because he helps me to understand the golf stuff (and he's often very funny), he makes some smug-of reference to his old mate the physio at St Andrews and drives me nuts again.

"Love to the wife and kids, incidentally," he toasts some chum or other, which is actually quite impolite to those of us who know none of the parties concerned. Yesterday he made a long and glowing tribute to somebody called Marley Spearman, which must have made her very happy, but meant beggar all to anyone else. How does he get away with it? On Saturday, he used the public airwaves to tell his fellow (woman) commentator, "By the way, Big Eric sends his regards." Big Eric? Big Eric? Even those congenitally deaf to innuendo must have felt slightly uncomfortable when they heard that one.

I mention all this because this weekend at the Open was a potentially brilliant one for the sexification of a sport that labours under the old-bore masonic image as no other does. "The Michael Owen of golf" is what they are calling the phenomenal, fresh-faced amateur Justin Rose, but it's a coinage that, to many people, will appear simply a contradiction in terms. What happens to the image of golf when footballers embrace it as their favourite pastime? Nothing. Instead of a huge juvenile rush to the driving ranges, the footballers in question simply enhance their reputation for having too much time on their hands.

Rose was the name that launched a hundred clichés about blushing



summed their meter had broken. But it's an exciting game, and an attractive one.

If Tiger Woods didn't change the image of golf, then it's unlikely Justin Rose will. It's just that he ought to. Not only did he show world-class nerve and talent with his final round of 69; he also had charisma and thrived on the attention of the galleries. In fact, in the rare periods when people failed to clap his progress down a fairway, he peered hopefully from under his hat, willing it to start.

Clearly, I worry about the image of golf. And my feeling is, if I can blame the Alliss patter for it, why not? Golfers are not going to start trashing hotel rooms; young Justin looks much more likely to tidy them up. But what they need is for the cosy golf-club love-to-the-little-lady stuff to stop blocking the view of their professionalism. Tiger Woods, talking about his rounds on Thursday and Friday, kept using the expression "out there". Sport, when it's exciting, is about being "out there". Yet the cheers for Justin Rose, and the affection shown for all the stars at the Open, somehow means they are "in here", which is what puts a lot of people off.

However, above all, the Open is one of the great spectator events, for many reasons. The main one is that whoever wins it, you'll be happy for them. It's always a good story. Yesterday the Open might have been won by Tiger Woods (learning to play links golf); Brian Watts (journeyman shoots to stardom); Mark O'Meara (nice bloke, a bit like Cliffy in *Cheers*); Jim Furyk (man whose swing resembles octopus falling out of a tree); or Justin Rose (fantastic debut by personable youngster).

Just before Brian Watts, in the last pair, took his magnificent bunker shot at the 18th, the telly showed the chap in the trophy room, waiting to inscribe the name and powerless to start. Doubtless Alliss knew the name of his wife and little ones. But as Mark O'Meara and Brian Watts locked horns for the play-off, if there was ever the image to sum up the sheer out-there-ness of the event, here it was.



Rose thrives on the attention of the galleries during a final round that demonstrated his steely nerve as well as his charisma

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SPORTS LETTERS

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This week in THE TIMES



■ **Tomorrow**
Can rugby union leave its troubles behind after three years of turmoil? With Cliff Brittle (above) removed as chairman of the RFU's management board, David Hands considers where the game will go from here

■ **Wednesday**
As the Tour de France moves into the mountains, can it climb away from controversy?

■ **Thursday**
Alan Lee previews the fourth Test match between England and South Africa and assesses the home side's chances of leveling the series

■ **Friday**
How did England fare on the first day of the Trent Bridge Test?

Assistance for referees

From Mr Michael Bessell
Sir, John Bryant (Bryant's Eye, July 9) made the point that referees need to be assisted by the same technology that is used to judge against them. The dilemma is that replays take time to be viewed.

One possible solution for large tournaments, where television cameras are present, would be to allow the referee and his assistants to manage the game, but to let the fourth official take responsibility for disciplinary matters. This way the game would be allowed to flow, but decisions that affect whether a team is reduced to ten men, or fewer, or whether a player misses a later game can be decided with the aid of technology.

Advice could also be sought, as with cricket, by the referee, regarding penalty decisions. Pitch-side technology should allow carding decisions to be made within a minute (at the very most) of any offence, thus ensuring justice is done with the minimum of disruption.

Yours faithfully,
MIKE BESSELL,
Gedney, 12 Wrawby Road,
Brigg,
Lincolnshire, DN20 8DL.
mikebess@clara.net

Diminishing attraction for cricket followers

From Mr P. J. Kirby
Sir, Reports on the small attendance at Old Trafford for the third Test against South Africa should come as no surprise. Has not the thought of paying up to £30 or more to be sat next to foul-mouthed, continual drinkers for the whole day finally become less than an exciting proposition for the average cricket follower?

If I am a typical example of recent years — four days at Edgbaston, four days at Trent Bridge, three days at Old Trafford, but this year no purchase of Test-match tickets — can we wonder that grounds are half-empty?

The move towards restricting dress code and alcohol consumption may eventually bring back some of the lost customers, though it will no doubt take more than a year or two to come

No grounds for appeal

From Mr Dale Vargas
Sir, I can understand the international umpires' resentment over modern trends towards cheating in Test matches and one-day internationals (report, July 15): they are in an unenviable situation. Surely the time has come to review the absurd situation whereby the umpire (the person who actually makes the decision) is the only one not to have access to the slow-motion, close-up action replay for catches and lbw.

The argument that repeated reference to the third umpire would slow the game down even further is a valid one, but nowadays there is too much at stake not to make use of the existing technology.

We should be clear who is putting the umpire under pressure: it is not the non-

Alternative view

From Mr Peter E. Byrne
Sir, Further to the letter from Mr Alan Fordham (July 6) concerning your report of the Varsity cricket match, I find it hard to accept his interpretation of events.

I act as scorer to radio commentary teams and ensure that I am acquainted with all the playing regulations of each match that I attend. I and other spectators knew 20 overs were the minimum requirement for the final hour, as stated in the regulations for "other first-class matches".

At the start of the final hour, Mike Harris, one of the um-

Up with the game

From Mrs Sue White
Sir, Now that it is all over, I must write to thank you for the World Cup chart that was published on every relevant day during the event.

At 50, with one adult son still at home but with no

Walking batsman

walking batsman; it is the dancing, shouting, waving (and later muttering and cursing) bowler and the fielders with their orchestrated appeals. It is, therefore, more important than ever to uphold the long-standing principle that the batsman should have the benefit of any possible doubt.

Yours faithfully,
DALE VARGAS,
Deyne Court Cottage,
Harrow Park,
Harrow on the Hill, HA1 3JE.

From Mr Roger E. Tilbury
Sir, The problem can be solved at a stroke: abandon the appeal. Umpires should simply rule out or not out on what they see. They also seem to consider that not "walking" is cheating. Why should a batsman give himself out? He is not allowed to give himself out.

Yours sincerely
ROGER TILBURY,
4/80 Shepherds Hill, N6 5RH.
rogertilbury@un.n.unisys.com

Interest in football

interest in football, I was able, thanks to the chart, to converse knowledgeably with my other son, and with colleagues at work, on the finer points of the tournament.

Frequently, I impressed others with my information about games past and advice on those to come. All this, and I

Didn't have to watch any matches

I shall look forward to the European equivalent in two years' time.

Yours faithfully,
SUE WHITE,
52 Mount Pleasant Road,
New Malden,
Surrey KT3 3LB.



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SAILING

Problems continue to plague Golding

By Edward Gorman, Sailing Correspondent

THE Atlantic Alone Race is one that Mike Golding, of Great Britain, may wish to forget. After two weeks at sea in *Team Group 4*, he is now trailing Giovanni Soldini, aboard the Open 60, *FILA*, his only competitor in Class 1, by nearly 650 miles as his early error in weather routing continues to haunt him.

This weekend, Golding was still trying to get past the stationary Azores High, which has condemned him to either no wind or sudden squalls for days, while Soldini, to the south, powers along at average speeds of up to ten knots in the trade winds. On Saturday, Golding's spot position showed that he still had 1,847 miles to go to the finish at Charleston and that he was in danger of being overhauled by the leading 50-footer in Class 2, Jean Pierre Mouligne's *Cray Valley*, which was just 35 miles behind.

"Another day of little or no wind," Golding reported. "The really frustrating thing is my lack of a spinner as, when there is a puff, my course just goes back and forth across the rhumb line. The genneker is a good sail, but with so little wind, I need to sail quite close to the wind just to keep moving. I imagine it's almost as bad as trying to take a square-rigger to windward."

Early on in the race, Golding had problems with his autopilots when sailing downwind, which led to him blowing out his spinnaker and damaging the genneker. He also had problems with the watermaker, which he had to pump by hand, and he has now reported that the main computer on *Team Group 4* is broken, which means that he is unable to receive much of the weather information that he needs. There is enough food to keep him going, but fuel and water to last only ten more days at sea.

It has been a desperately frustrating first race in *Team Group 4* for Golding, which he must have hoped would have served as a useful warm-up and confidence-booster for the Around Alone Race, which starts from Charleston at the end of September. Instead, this contest has exposed weaknesses that the former skipper of the 67ft steel yacht, *Group 4*, in the BT Global Challenge will need to address if he is to

have better results against at least four experienced Open 60 skippers in the Around Alone.

This weekend, the organisers released the latest list of entrants who have met all the requirements to make the startline. There will be seven boats in Class 1, including Golding and Soldini, plus Josh Hall, of Britain, in the brand new *Garmore Investment Management*, Isabelle Autissier, in *PRB*, and Marc Thiercelin, in *Somewhere*.

There are 13 listed in Class 2 for 40 to 50-footers, including Mike Garside, whose *Magellan Alpha* now trails Mouligne's *Cray Valley* by 140 miles, and Andy Darwent, from Worcestershire, who has been building his own Open 50, *Heart of England*, at home.

The big prize at Ford Cork Week — the Puma car for the winner of Class 0 — was won by Tony Mullins's chartered *Barlo Plastics*, with a star-studded cast on board led by Andy Beadsworth, of Britain, who was trying his hand at driving a CHS-rated yacht for the first time in years. The boat, known formerly as *Cracklin' Rosie* and designed by John Corby, has been significantly modified recently and she was just able to hold off the two big Swans, *Desperado of Cowes* and *Noonmark VI*, which prospered in the strong winds.

Beadsworth was happy with a good week's work. "We definitely got a lot better during the week. Once the trimmers and myself had learnt how to keep the boat going — it was very important to keep her driving — we did well," he said.

Britain-based winners in other classes included: Ken Trench's *Prima 38*, *Diva*, in Class 1; Chris Jago's *Sawn 44*, *Flamboyant*, in Class 2; Richard Willis's *X332*, *Cloud IX*, in Class 3; Malcolm Struth's *Prism 28*, *Thrust*, in Class 4; Peter Bruce's *Contessa 32*, *Owl*, in Class 6; and Campbell Crawford's *Taylor-Maid* in Class 7.

Nick Roberts, in *Three Little Pigs*, was the winner in the Hunter 70s. Nick and Arne Haigh's *Steamy Windows* prevailed in the Sigma 38s while Allan Hogg and his crew from Plymouth took the honours in *Boojum* to win the Sigma 33 national championship.



The outward peace and tranquility traditionally associated with County Week often serves to hide some raucous goings-on off court. Photograph: Gill Allen

Last resort for tennis's amateur ideal

Has County Week had its day? Sally Jones, once a teenage player, now an official team battleaxe, puts the case for the defence

County Week. To the Lawn Tennis Association (LTA) bigwigs, it is an anachronism — what use is grass-court doubles to anyone these days? To the legions of hyper-ambitious coaches and agents, it is a waste — three hard matches a day without a sniff of a world-ranking point or a wad of prize-money.

Yet to the players, this week is a blissful return to an earlier, more amateurish age, a chance to meet old friends and party hard after a day spent running like a rabbit, smashing endlessly and tossing up steeping lobs in desperately hard-fought matches played without umpires and barely a queried line-call.

The 13 venues for the 44 counties contesting the LTA Inter-County Cup Grass Court Championships, as County Week is more formally known, include Felixstowe and Beckenham, which this year host the lowest sections, Group Seven Men and Group Seven Ladies respectively. The Isle of Man nestles comfortably and predictably at the bottom of each, with Cumbria,

who, according to legend, usually pick a couple of sheep at third pair because of chronic player shortage, a couple of places above them. At the other end of the scale, Devonshire Park, Eastbourne, with its 18 picturesque grass courts, is the permanent home to the group one men's and women's championships, although it should be noted that, in endearingly non-PC style, female players are still referred to as ladies.

The teams — a mixture of driven full-timers, recent has-beens on American university tennis scholarships and ferocious thirtysomethings determined to bamboozle the promising juniors — stay at the Grand Hotel, an ornate wedding-cake edifice on the seafrost. To the horror of the older generations, rowdier tennis elements gallop around the corridors in tracksuits, let off fire extinguishers and hold

raucous singing matches at dinner. "Surrey Men are going to Bude, ooh-ah, ooh-ah," is a severe slur, Bude and Cromer often host group two, to which the two sides finishing bottom are relegated.

Against all the odds, a string of big-name players still take part. Last year, Chris Wilkinson spear-headed Hampshire's men's victory while Sam Smith, the British women's No.1, and her coach, Mary Collins, almost did the same for Essex until Warwickshire landed their first title for 30 years.

Despite its supposed irrelevance, the event has always aroused passionate loyalties and inspired last-ditch heroics. Warwickshire supporters recall fondly the heady day that the indomitable Hazel Cheadle, then in her fifties, and Janice Waitwright defeated Virginia Wade and her partner shortly before Wade's Wimbledon victory.

As a gawky teenager in the mid-Seventies, I partnered Ann Jones, another Wimbledon champion, at my first group one outing against the likes of Wade and Sue Barker. In our opening match, I shook with awe and prayed that the ball wouldn't come to me, but soon discovered that Jones's powerful ground strokes guaranteed me a flattering string of "gimmie" put-aways at the net. I became a committed serve-volleyer overnight.

These days, as Warwickshire captain, I get the same feeling from watching our big-hitting juniors — who once regarded going to the net as akin to crossing a minefield — suddenly discovering that, to have any chance, they cannot afford to stay back. They learn also to cope with the fiendish mixture of slice, lobs and drop-shots inflicted by the canny oldies, who deliberately starve them of pace and top-spin.

For the ladies of Warwickshire at least, self-control is at a premium: I operate a swear-box, fining the players for tantrums, racket-throwing and negative body language ("drifting around like a bent banana" as one of our side described it). Last year, I could not have retired on the proceeds.

Off-court, little has changed, except that instead of rebelling against the battleaxe in charge of us, I am now that battleaxe, patrolling the corridors to discover who has nipped out to the off-licence for illicit cans of Diamond White and which of our giggly teenagers has sneaked off to the pier with some older married coach Who Should Know Better.

With five of our top players missing through injury, international commitments and pregnancy this year, I shall be chewing my nails and scuffling between crucial matches even more neurotically than usual as we fight to avoid relegation. Bude and Cromer are all very well as seaside resorts, but for County Week only Eastbourne will do.

DANCESPORT: MIXED NATIONALITY PAIRS CANNOT COMPETE IN COMPETITIONS

Couples downbeat over ruling

Ruth Gledhill sees a law change threaten to split the dancing world

DOZENS of dancesport couples could be forced to split or forgo a place on their country's Olympic team after a ruling that mixed nationality couples cannot compete together in competitions run under Olympic rules.

Alan and Donna Shingler, of England, both 28, the Open British champions and the world's top amateur couple, are among the married couples who would be unable to dance for their country under the new rule.

While Alan Shingler is British, his wife is an Australian who lives in Great Britain on a permanent resident's visa but does not have a British passport. Their nationality has not formerly been an issue in a sport that has become highly globalised.

Nationality is, by and large, ignored in the pursuit of excellence. Dozens of top Latin and standard couples are of mixed nationality.

Many Italian men, such as Luca Baricchi, the profession-

al, opt to dance with British women — such as his wife, Loraine — because the standard of dancing in England is considered still to be technically superior to that in Germany and elsewhere.

Michele Barry, Loraine Baricchi's younger sister, also dances for England with an Italian — Roberto Villa — in the amateur ranks. They were second in the closed United Kingdom championships at Bournemouth last week.

All these couples, whether married or not, would be forced to change partners, or forgo selection for the Olympics. Last night, Donna Shingler said that she would rather not dance in the Olympics than change her partner. The Shinglers, known as formidable exponents of the classical English style in waltz, tango,

Viennese waltz, foxtrot and quickstep, are to represent England at the forthcoming world championships in Japan, where they will face a strong challenge William Pino and Alessandra Bucciarelli, of Italy.

They are the favourites to win the International event three days earlier, in October. Alan Shingler said: "It does seem a little old-fashioned, because more than half of partnerships in some countries are international."

Donna Shingler added: "People who are true to dancing want the best partner they can find to dance at the highest possible level. I would not choose a partner of a lesser talent just so I could compete in the Olympics. I would not change Alan at all, even if it meant going without an

Olympic medal. He is the right partner for me. He dances in the style that is right for me. It would be awful if I had to pick someone from my own country, just so I could dance in the Olympics."

The International Dance Sport Federation, which runs the amateur side of the sport, decided at its recent meeting to accept the new rule to bring it in line with Olympic regulations.

Peter Pover, the vice-president of the federation, which last year was granted full recognition by the International Olympic Committee, said: "We are working towards inclusion in the Olympic games and we are just following IOC rules."

He said that the ruling would not apply to any other dance sport competitions for individual couples, but applies to all federation events for formation dance teams.

John Leach, editor of *Dance News*, said that, in the long-term, the rule could change the face of dancing. "Most of the top couples today are of mixed nationality," he said.

"It will be a contentious point. Long-term, people will think very carefully about how they choose their partners."

"When it comes to the Olympics, it is harder for a sport such as dancing because there are two people involved, not just one."

Rita Thomas, of the English Amateur Dance Association, said: "We would not be the only country with this problem. There is one Portuguese dancer who dances for Germany. There are very many couples with mixed nationality."

The IOC has as yet set no date by which dance sport might become part of the official Olympic programme.

MOTORCYCLING

Doohan's delight at fiftieth win

MICHAEL DOOHAN, of Australia, four times the world champion, won the German 500cc motorcycle Grand Prix on a Honda yesterday for the fiftieth victory of his career.

Max Biaggi, of Italy, was second, with Alex Criville, of Spain, completed a Honda clean sweep of the top placings. The win was Doohan's fourth of the season and leaves him on 160 points overall, 12 clear of Biaggi. Criville is six points further back.

Doohan finished in 48min 0.876sec, with Biaggi 2.573sec behind and Criville 11.379sec adrift. The victory also gave Doohan a nineteenth podium finish from 130 500cc Grand Prix races and handed Honda, who had won 22 consecutive 500cc grands prix before Simon Crafer, of New Zealand, gave Yamaha a win at the British Grand Prix two weeks ago, a hundredth success for their NSR V4 machine.

"On the last lap, we were just bringing it home," Doohan said, having ridden in solitary splendour for much of the race. "The front of the bike gave me a few warnings, but I just didn't listen and kept going at the same speed."

"I had a few difficult moments throughout the weekend. There was one crash, and I ran off the track a couple of times, but other than that it wasn't too bad. We were consistent and I felt that if I could get a good start I had a good chance."

Tetsuya Harada and Tomomi Manako made it a Japan double, with victories in the 250cc and 125cc races respectively.

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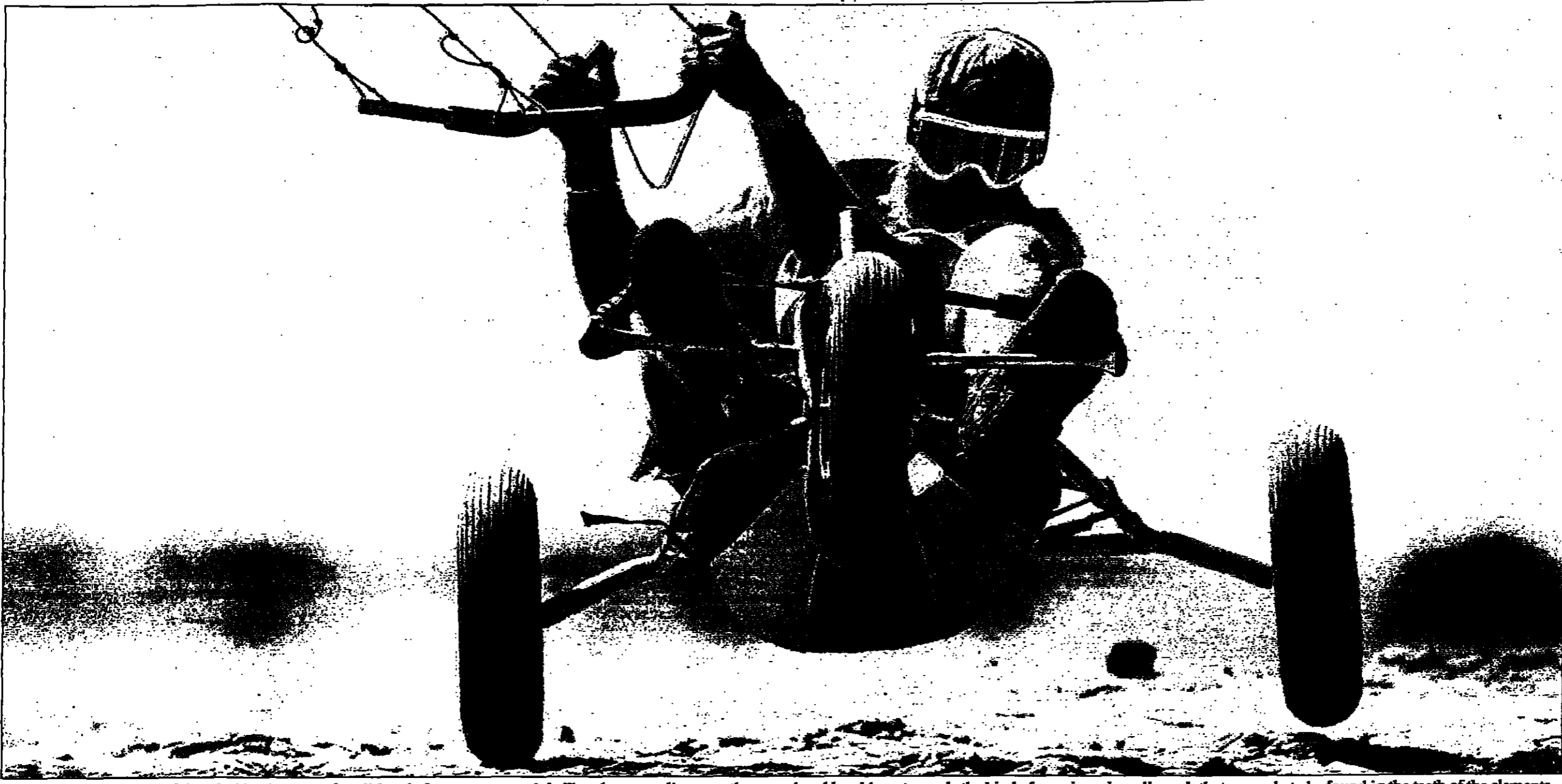


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Alan and Donna Shingler will be prevented from competing at the Olympic Games

Christian Dymond experiences at first hand the thrills and spills of kite bugging on Southsea Common



Harnessing the power of the wind by the most of traditional of means can send thrill-seekers speeding over the ground and head-long towards the kind of genuine adrenalin rush that can only be found in the teeth of the elements

Off to a flying start

If you want to know how easy it is to let a few hundred pounds slip through your hands, try flying a large kite, for the first time, in a moderate wind. My feet were on the ground at Southsea, but I felt that one strong gust could quite easily airlift me to the Isle of Wight.

Nevertheless, learning to fly a kite is an essential prelude to the sport of kite bugging. After all, when you are sitting on a three-wheeled vehicle with no brake and being pulled along the ground at speeds of up to 50mph, it is reassuring to know that you, and not the wind, are in control.

The last time I had flown a kite was in the days when they had one line, were made mostly of cotton and were the sort of thing you could happily play with while admiring the scenery.

Times have changed. Many kites today seem to be as aerodynamic as Stealth fighters. They are brightly coloured, have one, two or four lines and are nearly all manufactured from synthetic materials.

At Southsea, a very patient Mike Shaw, the secretary of the other BBC, the British Buggy Club, was showing me the ropes with a two-line, ten square metre peel kite — its segments reminded me of an orange — but even with the breeze at 5mph, the £1,000 worth of kite had a will of its own.

One hour later, though, when the buggy was wheeled out, I felt confident enough to graduate to a four-line Flexifoil "Sky Tiger", an attractive creature with a big bite. Its lines were attached to two handles — one for the left hand, one for the right — but, with the correct pressure and wrist action, the Sky Tiger could be turned and braked at will.

Four-line kites, which are flown on lines varying in length between 30-150ft, appear to be the favoured ones for bugging because, as Shaw said, they offer greater control and you can land and launch them on your own that much more easily.

As for the buggies, they are like squat tricycles with a seat generally made out of padded webbing material. They can be taken to pieces and thus easily transported and, as many kites can now be packed up inside a plastic bag, the advantages of kite bugging are obvious.

Helmets are strongly advisable (they are mandatory at kite events), as are long trousers, eye protection and tough shoes. If you are bugging on a hard surface, knee and elbow pads and gloves are recommended.

"It's fast, exciting and there's an element of danger," Joost Meijerink, the general manager of Flexifoil International, the kite manufacturers, said. "You're very low on the ground and you can fall out and hurt yourself, but, so far as we're aware, there's been no serious injury with the sport anywhere in the world."

The British Buggy Club: PO Box 4015, Smethwick, West Midlands B67 6HJ. Tel: 0468 765887. Information is free but if you become a member you are recommended to become insured, which costs £15. Kite festivals where there are demonstrations of kite bugging: Weston-Super-Mare, July 25-26, on the beach Middle Wallop, near Andover, August 1-2, large Army flying site Southsea Common, Portsmouth, August 29-30 Bristol, September 5-6, Aston Court Berrow T98, 20 miles south of Bristol, September 12-19. Bugging equipment buggies cost about £200-£300. Kites suitable for bugging start at £150. Helmet (a mountain biking, canoeing or paragliding one will do), knee and elbow pads, should cost less than £70 in total. Flexifoil International: 01353 723131. Information pack on kites and buggies available with price list.

SPORT FOR ALL

shoes. If you are bugging on a hard surface, knee and elbow pads and gloves are recommended. "It's fast, exciting and there's an element of danger," Joost Meijerink, the general manager of Flexifoil International, the kite manufacturers, said. "You're very low on the ground and you can fall out and hurt yourself, but, so far as we're aware, there's been no serious injury with the sport anywhere in the world."

Kite bugging is growing rapidly in popularity. A man called George Pocock made use of kites on his horseless carriage in the 19th century, but kite bugging as we know it today has been developed by Peter Lynn, of New Zealand. "It provides a more physical side to kite flying with speed and thrills," Shaw said. "There's no pollution and no damage to the environment. You also get to buggle in some pretty attractive places and it's a sport you can do all year round." Next weekend, Shaw will be at Weston-super-Mare, although the leading event for the BBC is the free Berrow T98 (20 miles south of Bristol) for a week in September.

For bugging, the rule of thumb is that the lighter the wind or the more draggy the surface (soft sand, for example), the bigger the kite and the longer the line. In a buggy, your speed will be, on average, about double that of the wind. This is not a sport for confined spaces. Beaches and areas of open ground are the favoured locations, but, even then, you have got to watch out for people and take care of nearby roads.

Southsea Common was fine. I launched the kite standing, sat in my buggy with the Sky Tiger overhead, put my feet on the foot pegs, pulled the kite into the wind — and then I was off. True, it was not quite the flying start that I had imagined, but at least there was movement.

The kite itself was flying to my side in what is called the "wind window", that area where the wind keeps the kite inflated and produces the power to pull the buggy. "If you go in the same direction as the kite and your speed is greater than the kite, then the kite deflates and falls out of the sky," Shaw said.

As long as you can control the kite, steer the buggy with your feet and watch out where you are going — all at the same time — the sport should not present any problems. When you're only a few inches above the ground and moving along at some speed, the adrenalin rush is considerable. However, I cannot say that I got to 50mph because, as evening came, the sea mist started to roll in and we called it a day. As far as kite flying goes, sea mist is a big dampener.



The three-wheeled vehicles have no brakes and can reach speeds of up to 50mph

SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

By ROBERT SHEEHAN, BRIDGE CORRESPONDENT

In the semifinal of the trials to select the USA team for the next Bermuda Bowl this board was played at four tables and all four defences were unable to cope. We all know our bridge adages, but the secret is to apply the right one at the right moment.

Dealer East	Game All	Teams
♠ J107643 ♥ KQ2 ♦ 8 ♣ K54	♠ KQ98 ♥ 10763 ♦ 75 ♣ A86	

W N E S

All Pass

Contract: Three Diamonds by South. Lead: three of clubs

This was the auction at all four tables. Facing a passed partner the West players decided to sell out to Three Diamonds, scared of the vulnerability. They discovered too late that Three No-Trumps would probably have been making their way. To make matters worse, all the West players naturally enough started the ball rolling by leading a small club. East took the ace and returned a club, but from there on in, declarer could hold his losers to a club, a heart and two trumps, making 110.

Do you see the mistake? Well, the East players had been using the wrong adage ('third-hand plays high') and not the right one ('aces were made to take kings'). If East

KEENE on CHESS

By RAYMOND KEENE, CHESS CORRESPONDENT

Short's perseverance

Nigel Short, of Great Britain, did not just dominate the Keres memorial tournament in terms of the score, he also shone through the quality of his play and his sheer determination. His games were replete with sacrificial enterprise and endgame perseverance, with even his draws being of great interest. Today's opponent puts up a successful defence.

White: Nigel Short
Black: Urut Adianto
 Keres memorial
 Tallinn/Parmu 1998

Modern Defence

1	e4	g5	Rc7
2	d4	g7	Kg7
3	Ne3	cs	de5
4	de	de8	Ra8
5	Nf3	Bd4	Rc8
6	Be2	Bc3	Rc8
7	Bd3	Nf6	Rc8
8	d5	0-0	Rc8
9	Re1	Nc7	Rc8
10	Be2	Ne6	Rc8
11	e4	Nc7	Rc8
12	Bd3	de8	Rc8
13	Ne2	Rd8	Rc8
14	a5	Rd8	Rc8
15	Ra2	b5	Rc8
16	de6	Rc8	Rc8
17	Nc1	0-2	Rc8
18	cs	Nf6	Rc8
19	g	de	Rc8
20	de6	Ne6	Rc8
21	Nf2	Rd8	Rc8
22	Bd1	Nc7	Rc8
23	Rd1	Rd8	Rc8
24	Bg5	Ne6	Rc8
25	Ba6	0-7	Rc8
26	Bc4	Ne6	Rc8
27	0-2	h6	Rc8
28	0-2	0-7	Rc8
29	Ra6	g6	Rc8
30	Rd1	Rd7	Rc8

Draw agreed

Diagram of final position

Raymond Keene writes on Chess Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

GUIDE TO THE WEEK AHEAD

TODAY CRICKET

Vodafone Challenge Series
 11 a. First day of three.
 Derbyshire v South Africans
 GARDIFF: Glamorgan v Sri Lanka
 Axa League
 5.6, 40 overs
 Hove: Sussex v Middlesex
 5.05, 40 overs
 Old Trafford: Lancashire v Worcestershire

WEDNESDAY CRICKET

BRITANNIC ASSURANCE COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP (four days): Colwyn Bay: Glamorgan v Lancashire. Chalfont: Gloucestershire v Surrey. Portsmouth: Hampshire v Nottinghamshire. Lord's: Middlesex v Yorkshire. Northampton: Northamptonshire v Derbyshire. Taunton: Somerset v Durham.

FOOTBALL

EUROPEAN CUP: First qualifying round, first leg: Celtic (Scot) v Partick Athletic (Ire); Qsba Belgrade (Yug) v FC Vesterås (Nor); Lazio (Ita) v Halmstad (Swe); Steaua Bucharest (Rom) v Flora (Est); LKS Lodz (Pol) v Kapaz (Aze); Kavala (Grc) v Maribor Tostalic (Slovenia); Dinamo Tbilisi (Geo) v Slovan Bratislava (Slovakia); Vitoria (Por) v Anorthosis Famagusta (Cyp); Zrinjski (Cro) v Uppsal (Swe); Grasshoppers (Swt) v Juventus (Ita); Dynamo Kiev (Ukr) v Barry Town (Wales); Slovan (Mac) v Club Brugge (Bel); Bazar Jermolov (Bel) v Torshavn (Faroe Is); Kozani (Greece) v Callowville (N.Ire); Sporting Riga (Lat) v Dynamo Minsk (Bel).

UEFA CUP: First qualifying round, first leg: Group A: Arges Pitești (Rom) v Torino (Ita); AC Sparta Prague (Cze) v Olimpia (Rom); AC Sparta Prague (Cze) v Olimpia (Rom); NK Olimpija (Slo) v Linz (A); Brno (Cze) v Zlaté Moravce (Cze); FC Sheriff (Mold) v Dinamo Zagreb (Cro); FC Sheriff (Mold) v Dinamo Zagreb (Cro); FC Sheriff (Mold) v Dinamo Zagreb (Cro); FC Sheriff (Mold) v Dinamo Zagreb (Cro).

OTHER SPORT

SPEEDWAY: Elite League: Wolverhampton v Ipswich (7.30) Premier League: Leicester v Sheffield (7.30) Premier League four-team championship: Essex v Arena Essex v Isle of Wight v Newport (7.30).

TOMORROW CRICKET

AXA LEAGUE (one day): Edgbaston: Warwickshire v Essex.

TOUR MATCH (first day of three)
 Canterbury: Kent v Australia A.

FIFTH WOMEN'S ONE-DAY INTERNATIONAL: Lord's: England v Australia.

OTHER SPORT

SPEEDWAY: Dunlop Conference League riders' championship final (at St. Austell, 7.30).

OTHER SPORT

Luxembourg (Luo) v FK Gothenburg (Swe); Ferencváros (Hun) v Principal (Andor); Tibau (Ned) v Anderlecht (Bel); Newport (Wales) v Walsley Krakow (Pol).

OTHER SPORT

SPEEDWAY: Elite League: King's Lynn v Coventry (7.45); Poole v Wolverhampton (7.30); Premier League four-team championship: Hull v Sheffield v Stoke (7.30).

THURSDAY CRICKET

FOURTH CORNHILL TEST MATCH (five days): Trent Bridge: England v South Africa.

BRITANNIC ASSURANCE COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP (four days): Edgbaston: Warwickshire v Essex.

OTHER SPORT

SPEEDWAY: Elite League: Ipswich v Belle Vue (7.30); Swindon v Eastbourne (7.30); Premier League: Sheffield v Glasgow (7.45).

FRIDAY CRICKET

VODAFONE CHALLENGE SERIES (four days): Leicester: Leicestershire v Warwickshire.

TOUR MATCH (three days): Hove: Sussex v Australia A.

JOB SUPER LEAGUE: Huddersfield v Hull (7.45).

OTHER SPORT

SPEEDWAY: Elite League: Belle Vue v Coventry (7.30); Oxford v Poole (7.45); Premier League: Isle of Wight v Glasgow (7.30).

SATURDAY CRICKET

JOB SUPER LEAGUE: Castleford v Warrington (8.05).

THE TIMES SPORTS SERVICE

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WORD WATCHING

By Philip Howard

OBLOMOV

a. A school of ballet
 b. Alternative dentistry
 c. A feckless slug

RITARDANDO

a. A narcissistic Yuppy
 b. Slowing down
 c. Papal Guards' march

SCHLAGOBERS

a. Whipped cream
 b. Mountaineering technique
 c. Riding boots

PSYLLA

a. A mythical monster
 b. A diacritic mark
 c. A jumping lark

Answers on page 44

WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene

White to play. This position is from the game Rogers — Friedman, New York, 1998. Can you spot the clever tactic which White used to terminate the game immediately?

Solution on page 44

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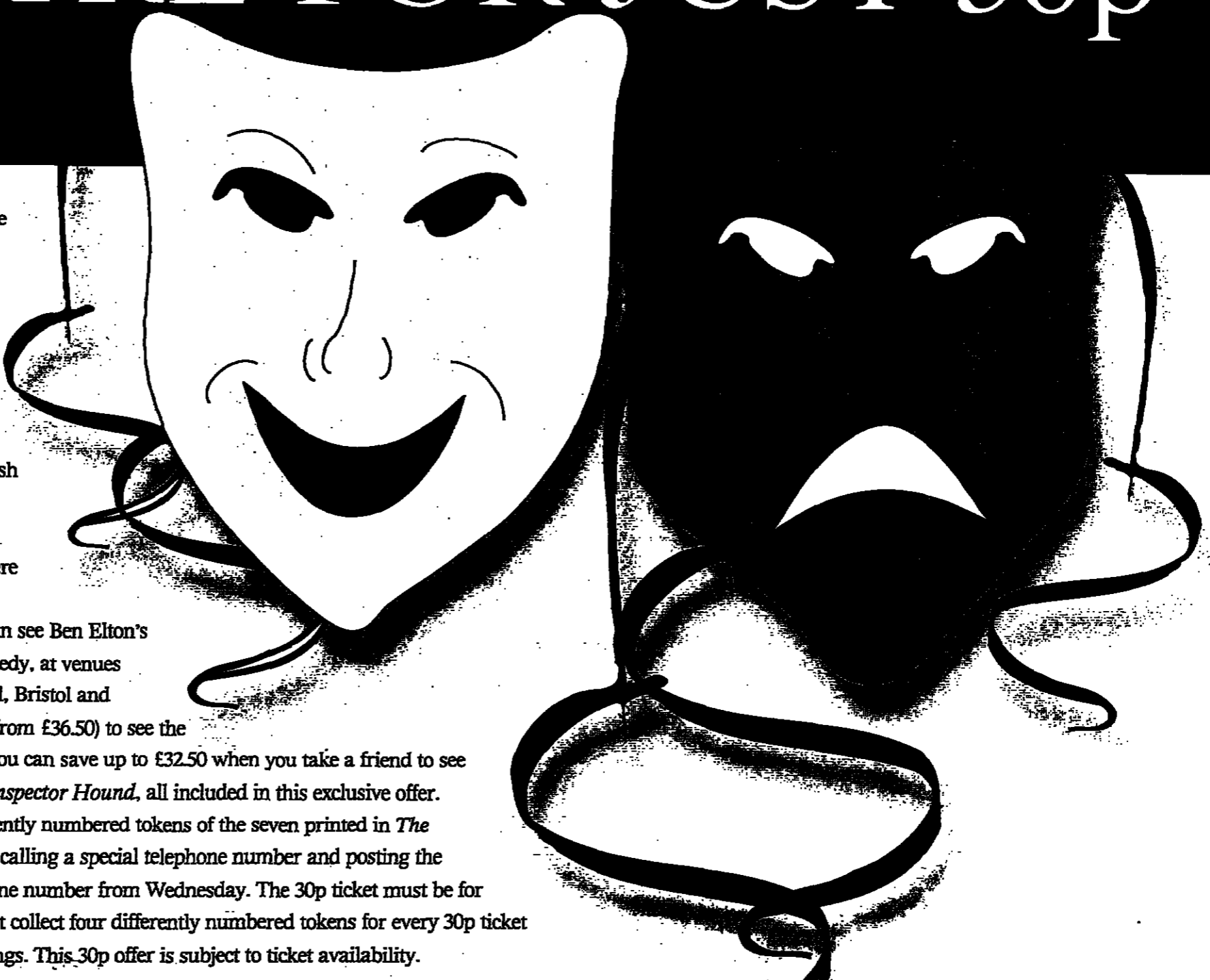
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AN EXCLUSIVE READER OFFER

THE TIMES

TAKE A FRIEND TO THE THEATRE FOR JUST 30p

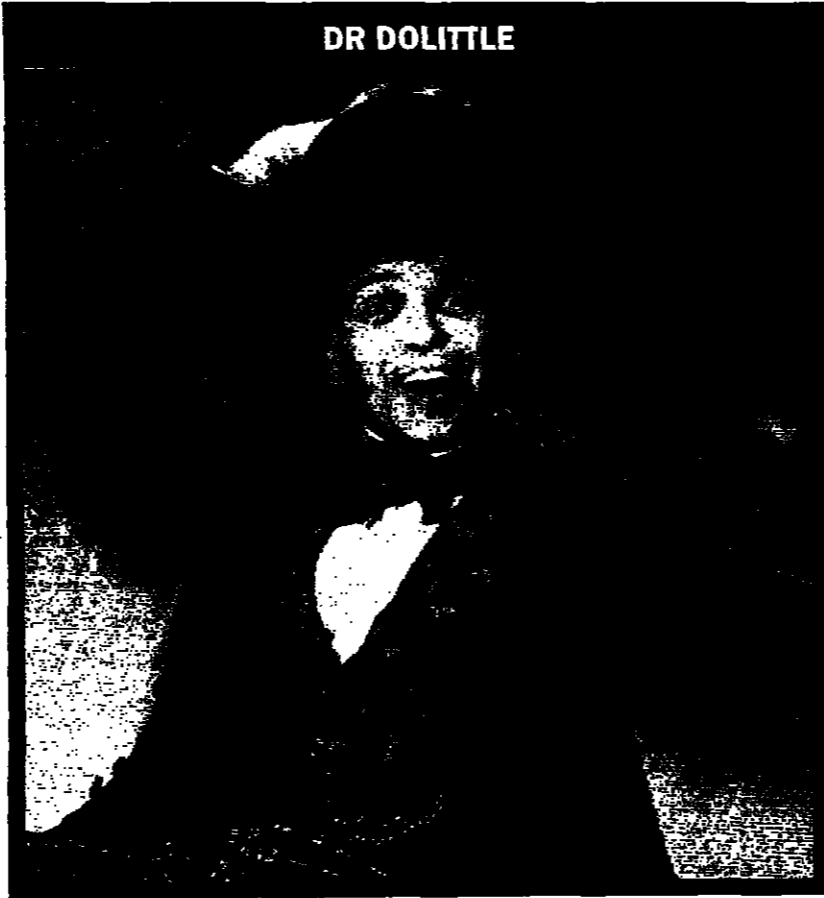
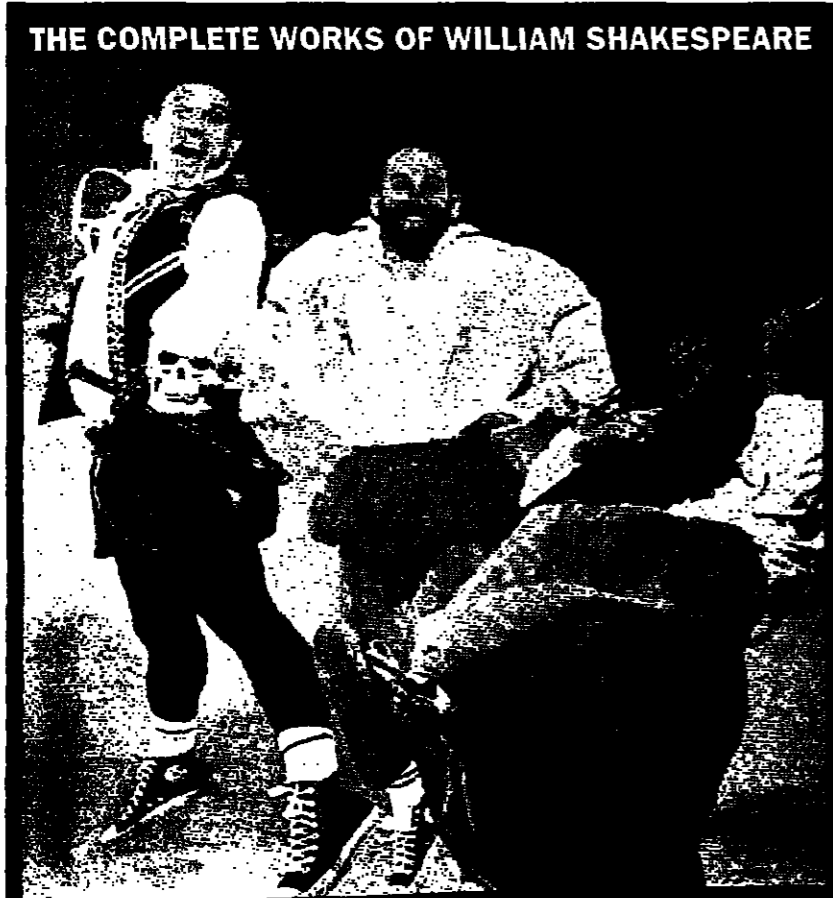


Today The Times offers readers the unbeatable opportunity, when you buy a full-price ticket for yourself, to buy another for a friend for just 30p. You can choose from more than 30 fantastic plays, operas, musicals and ballets throughout the UK between now and December.

The choice is terrific. From Anna Karenina, a triple bill by the City Ballet of London and Verdi's Un Ballo in Maschera, the raunchy Girls' Night Out and outlandish Circus of Horrors, to West End hits such as Doctor Dolittle, Blood Brothers, the Complete Works of William Shakespeare (Abridged), Smokey Joe's Cafe or Buddy, there is something for everyone.

From just £12.50 and 30p for your second ticket, you can see Ben Elton's Popcorn, which won the 1998 Olivier Award for Best Comedy, at venues from Brighton to Hull. Readers in Birmingham, Liverpool, Bristol and Oxford can take a friend for just 30p (normal ticket price from £36.50) to see the Welsh National Opera's production of Janáček's Jenůfa. You can save up to £32.50 when you take a friend to see An Inspector Calls, A Letter of Resignation or The Real Inspector Hound, all included in this exclusive offer.

To qualify for your 30p ticket, simply collect four differently numbered tokens of the seven printed in The Times this week. Bookings must be made by August 15 by calling a special telephone number and posting the tokens to an address which will be published with the phone number from Wednesday. The 30p ticket must be for the same performance as the full price ticket. Readers must collect four differently numbered tokens for every 30p ticket they buy. Tokens will be matched against telephone bookings. This 30p offer is subject to ticket availability.



FOR MORE EXCLUSIVE THEATRE OFFERS SEE METRO ON SATURDAY AUGUST 8

WEST END PLAYS

An Inspector Calls Garrick Theatre, £24.50 eve Mon-Thurs, mat Wed and Sat Aug 1-Sept 30
The Woman in Black Fortune Theatre, £23.50 eve Mon-Thur, mat Tue, Sat, Aug 1-Sept 30
The Complete Works of William Shakespeare Criterion Theatre, £22.50 eve Wed-Fri, mat Thur, Sat, Sun, Aug 1-Sept 30
A Letter of Resignation Savoy Theatre, £25 eve Mon-Thur, Aug 1-Sept 5
Major Barbara Piccadilly Theatre, 27.50 eve Tue-Thur, mat Sat, Aug 1-Sept 30
The Real Inspector Hound/Black Comedy Comedy Theatre, £25 eve Mon-Thur, mat Wed, Sat, Aug 1-Sept 10
Cross Royal Court Theatre Upstairs, £10 eve Tue-Thur, mat Sat, Sept 8-Oct 3 (not Sept 10)
Via Dolorosa Royal Court Theatre Downstairs, £19.50 eve Tue-Thur, mat Sat, Sept 3-Oct 3 (not Sept 8)

WEST END MUSICALS

Doctor Dolittle Labatt's Apollo, Hammersmith, £32.50 eve Mon-Thur, mat Wed, Aug 1-Sept 30
Blood Brothers Phoenix Theatre, £29.50 eve Mon-Thur, mat Thur and Sat, 1 Aug-30 Sept
Buddy Dandy Strand Theatre, £27 (£30 Fri-Sat), eve Mon-Fri, mat Sat, Aug 1-Sept 30
Smokey Joe's Cafe Prince of Wales Theatre, £33.50 eve Mon-Thur, £26 mat Fri, Aug 1-Sept 30
No Way to Treat a Lady Arts Theatre, £20 (£18 previews) previews eve July 28-31, mat August 2; normal performances eve August 4 and 11, mat August 8 and 9
OFF WEST END
Circus of Horrors Brighton Academy, £20 Oct 28-31
The Rocky Horror Show Hackney Empire, £19.50 eve Mon-Thur, £21.50 mat Fri and Sat, Sept 21-26

The English Shakespeare Company's As You Like It/Anthony and Cleopatra (in rep) Hackney Empire, £16.50 eve Mon-Thurs, Oct 13-22
Love Upon The Throne Bush Theatre, £10 eve Mon-Thur, mat Sat, Sept 8-26
Anna Karenina Lyric Theatre Hammersmith, £18 eve Tue-Fri, mat Sat, Sept 15-Sept 26
LONDON DANCE
City Ballet of London: Triple Bill Peacock Theatre, £20 (£22.50 Fri) eve 2-4 Sept, mat Sept 5
Cool Beat Urban Beat Peacock Theatre, £22.50 eve Sept 8-10, 14-17, mat Sept 12 and 19
SOUTH EAST
Chimes of Midnight Chichester Festival Theatre, £20.50 eve Mon-Thur, Aug 6-Sept 8
Popcorn Brighton Theatre Royal, £16.50 eve Mon-Thur, Oct 19-22; High Wycombe, Swan Theatre, £16.50 eve Mon-Thur, Nov 9-12; Canterbury, Marlow Theatre, £15 eve Mon-Thur, Nov 23-26; Woking, New Theatre, £16 eve Mon-Thur, Dec 7-10
Girls' Night Out Brighton Dome, £14.50 eve Mon-Fri, July 27-Aug 28
A Midsummer Night's Dream Open Air Theatre, Arundel Castle, £14 eve August 25 and 26
Celebrity Piano Recital: Lars Vogt The Barons' Hall, Arundel Castle, £20 eve August 26,
Kat and the Kings Richmond Theatre, £22 (£23 Sat), eve Wed-Sat, Sept 2-5
SOUTH WEST
Chet Trappanna Bournemouth International Centre, £21.50 eve Mon-Thur, July 30-August 30
Welsh National Opera presents Janáček's Jenůfa Bristol Hippodrome, £42.50, Nov 5
Welsh National Opera presents Verdi's Un Ballo in Maschera Bristol Hippodrome, £42.50, Nov 3

MIDLANDS
Circus of Horrors Nottingham Festival, Goose Fair Site, £10 (£12 Fri-Sat), Oct 15-24
Janáček's Jenůfa Oxford Apollo, £46, Oct 6
Verdi's Un Ballo in Maschera Oxford Apollo, £46, Oct 8
Janáček's Jenůfa (WNO) Birmingham Hippodrome, £44, Oct 27
Verdi's Un Ballo in Maschera (WNO) Birmingham Hippodrome, £44, Oct 29
NORTH EAST
Popcorn: Victoria Theatre, Halifax, £12.50 eve Mon, £16.50 Tue-Thur, Sept 28-Oct 1;
New Theatre, Hull, £12 eve Mon, £14.50 Tue-Thur, Nov 2-5; Grand Opera House, York, £12.50 eve Mon, £14.50 Tue-Thur, Nov 16-19
Circus of Horrors Stockton Riverside Festival, £10 (£12 Fri-Sat), July 23-Aug 1; Woodside Moor, Leeds, £10 (£12 Fri-Sat) Sept 17-26
Kat and the Kings Bingham Forum Theatre, Stockton-on-Tees, £15 (£17 Fri-Sat eve), eve Tue-Sat, mat Fri and Sat, Sept 29-Oct 3
NORTH WEST
Popcorn Preston Charter Theatre, £15, eve Mon-Thur, Oct 5-8
Circus of Horrors Manchester, Chorlton Park, £10, (£12 Fri-Sat), Oct 1-10
Verdi's Un Ballo in Maschera (WNO) Liverpool Empire, £36.50, Nov 10
Janáček's Jenůfa, (WNO) Liverpool Empire, £36.50, Nov 13
SCOTLAND
Circus of Horrors Edinburgh Festival, £10 (£12 Fri-Sat), Aug 7-30; Glasgow Green, £10 (£12 Fri-Sat), Sept 4-12
Kat and the Kings Glasgow Kings Theatre, £16.50 (£19.50 Fri-Sat), eve Tue-Sat, mat Fri, Sat, Sept 8-12
Dutch National Ballet Edinburgh International Festival, Edinburgh Playhouse, £35 eve Aug 24, 25, 26

THE TIMES
30p THEATRE
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CHANGING TIMES

Printed on a reference under article 1483 L109 p8, in the version in designed to protect, by means of tion procedure had been followed.

Capitalisation, week's change

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

Table of stock prices and changes for various sectors including ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES, BANKS, BREWERIES, PUBS & REST, BUILDING MATERIALS, CHEMICALS, CONSTRUCTION, DISTRIBUTORS, ELECTRICITY, ENGINEERING, FOOD MANUFACTURERS, HEALTHCARE, HOUSEHOLD GOODS & TEXT, INSURANCE, INVESTMENT TRUSTS, LEISURE & HOTELS, MEDIA, MINING, OIL & GAS, OTHER FINANCIAL, PHARMACEUTICALS, PRINTING & PAPER, PROPERTY, RETAILERS, FOOD, RETAILERS, GENERAL, SUPPORT SERVICES, TELECOMMUNICATIONS, TRANSPORT, and WATER.

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THE FACTS

THE BOARD

SB see

COMPAN

CORPORATE PROFILE: Compass Group

THE FACTS

Turnover: £3.7 billion
Pre-tax profit: £137.2 million
Net assets: £1.385 billion
Market cap: £4.423 billion
Employees: 140,000-plus...

THE BOARD

The chairman, John Thomson, is also vice-chairman of Barlow International and a non-executive director of Wellington Underwriting. He was appointed in March 1994. The driving force behind the group is Francis Mackay, 53, who joined in 1996, a year before the buyout...

SHAREHOLDERS in Grand Metropolitan in 1987 were asked to approve the £163 million buyout of their contract catering business. By the standards of the day it was not a big deal, cutting a small business loose from what was then a sprawling conglomerate...



Francis Mackay, left, with Roger Matthews, managing director, and John Thomson, right, the chairman, have overseen double-digit growth through activities like catering at sports venues.



alliances that have come to grief over the years. Yet the deals kept coming. Three since alone totalled £424 million, and there were other smaller in-fill purchases...

we're trying to do is focus everybody on the core businesses. We have a view that if you keep buying bigger, at some stage you are going to get it wrong.

restaurants and diners around the world including brands such as Pizza Hut, Burger King and TGI Friday as a franchisee. These are not on the high street but in hospitals, university campuses, airports and so on.

There is considerable overlap between these two — there may be a Pizza Hut, an Upper Crust, the upmarket sandwich bar, or another retail outlet next to the staff restaurant.

25 per cent in the US. As its share of all four sectors grows, says Mackay, this creates a virtuous circle. There are inevitable margin gains from better buying power.

WHAT THE EXPERTS SAY

"The formula for growth is simple. The company targets 10 per cent sales growth overall and has been delivering near to that now consistently for the last three years. By buying other companies, stripping out overhead costs and putting in their purchasing volumes Compass raises margins. In addition the company generates a lot of free cash flow.

SB seeks relief from a strong dose of sterling

COMPANIES

SMITHKLINE BEECHAM: After its failed merger with Glaxo Wellcome, SmithKline Beecham has become extremely unpopular with institutional investors who wanted it to close the deal.

the key issue. It is in this area that it could have made so many cost savings by merging with Glaxo — and the amount it spent in the second quarter is expected to keep gross margins flat.



Jan Leschly, left, will try to justify independence as he and Sir Richard Sykes, of Glaxo Wellcome, could not agree a merger

fer after several profit downgradings by leading brokers worried by the apparent slowdown at its instant share trading subsidiary. But the rest of the business should produce another strong performance organically when interim results are produced on Wednesday, although currency factors

will take the shine off the headline numbers. Brokers' estimates range between £285 million and £315 million compared with £333 million for the corresponding period for a year earlier.

Operating profits and earnings per share are likely to be flat at £298 million and 14.2p per share respectively reflecting the £20 million cost associated with upgrading systems to cope with the millennium and the introduction of the euro.

products saw revenue growth halve in the first quarter after a decline in foreign exchange products. That position is unlikely to have improved. Margins at Instinet remain under pressure.

NORTHERN ROCK: The former building society kicks off the bank reporting season on Thursday, with BT Alex Brown forecasting a 65 per cent rise in first-half profits to £104 million.

ECONOMIC OUTLOOK

With the jury still out on whether rates are set to rise again next month, this week's cluster of UK economic data will be scrutinised thoroughly.

monthly fall of 1.2 per cent, leaving the annual rate of growth at just 2.6 per cent, against 4.6 per cent in May.

unchanged from 0.5 per cent, leaving the annual rate still above trend at 2.6 per cent. The problems of the manufacturing sector are expected to be borne out by global trade data on Thursday.

ALASDAIR MURRAY

RESULTS & STATISTICS

Table with columns for Today, Tomorrow, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, and Sunday. Lists various companies and their financial results.

OUR VERDICT

Table with columns for Ethical expression, Fat-cat quotient, Financial record, Share performance, Attitude to employees, Strength of brand, Innovation, Annual report, City star rating, Future prospects, Total, and Ethical comment.

COMPANIES

ASTON VILLA: Shareholders have had a miserable time since the company floated last year, and have seen the value of the shares slide from £10.70 to a low of 47p on Friday.

Silverman loses \$1bn at Cendant

FROM OLIVER AUGUST IN NEW YORK

HENRY SILVERMAN, chief executive of Cendant, has made paper losses of almost \$1 billion (£600 million) on share options as a result of recent reverses at the fast-growing services conglomerate.

His options fell from \$1.2 billion to \$250 million when the discovery of accounting fraud sent the share price plummeting. Cendant owns Avis car hire and Britain's National Car parks and is buying the RAC breakdown service.

During years of rapid expansion, Mr Silverman gambled that he would make more money by taking options rather than a big salary. Last year his salary was \$61,000, probably less than his secretary's.

Few feel sorry for Mr Silverman, even though he has done what so many corporate governance campaigners urge. Investors have lost more than \$15 billion, and as chief executive Mr Silverman is being sued by them. The fraud was discovered in April and more details emerged last week, driving Cendant shares to less than half their March level.

Mr Silverman built his company aggressively through acquisitions. He ended up owning 10 per cent of one of the biggest service companies in America. This put his total package of returns far ahead of more high-profile executives such as Sandy Weill, the Travelers Group chairman, who last year made \$230 million.

Coalmining equipment makers face collapse

By CHRISTINE BUCKLEY, INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

THE mining equipment industry, which employs more than 8,000 people, is close to collapse because of the shrinking market for coal. Companies have already begun a round of hundreds of redundancies and the trade association fears that international firms will soon leave the UK.

Today is the last day for responses to the Government's energy review, which receives another rebuff from a group of analysts, who say it is useless for protecting the coal market. Cambridge Econometrics says that last year's demand for 47 million tonnes of coal will fall 25 per cent by 2000.

More than 100 people have been made redundant by mining equipment companies since the publication of the review last month. Investment in new plant by mining businesses has been static for months. The companies predict poor business now that the Government has dropped plans to guarantee a definite share of the energy market for coal by striking deals with the electricity generators.

Philip Deakin, director-general of the Association of British Mining Equipment Companies, said: "The conse-

quences of no action from the Government are really quite dire. The coal industry in the UK is just about as small as it can be to sustain equipment companies. Any further fall-off and the continuation of mining equipment manufacture in the UK will be seriously jeopardised."

Mr Deakin believes that international companies will relocate overseas to countries which are expanding their coal production such as Australia, China and South Africa. "There will be no point in them being in the UK when there is no industry of any size," he said.

The 43 companies which belong to the association currently employ 8,200 people directly and a further 1,000 sub-contract workers.

CRJ Mining is considering an Appeal to the European Court against approval by the European Commission for £3 billion a year German subsidies for coal used to generate power or fire steel. CRJ has just started trial shipments of coal from the North East to Germany, acceptance of which might persuade CRJ not to make another legal challenge.



J SAINSBURY is to follow Books Etc and Waterstones into the gourmet coffee market by recruiting an independent company to run a cafe in its flagship London store (Fraser Nelson writes). Perfection Coffee, set up a year ago, will soon move into the store in Clapham, South London — becoming the first independent company ever to share Sainsbury's supermarket space.

Sainsbury has agreed to put coffee-cup holders on its trolleys, allowing customers to pick up a cup on the way in and sip while they shop. David Clapham, director of Sainsbury's Special Business Units, said: "This coffee will blow you away. It's the sort of quality which people will come in for in the morning and come back for at night."

Plans in store for shake-up at Selfridges Hotel

By SARAH CUNNINGHAM

SELFRIDGES, which today becomes an independently quoted company, is believed to be considering plans to re-vamp its hotel in Central London.

The Selfridge Hotel, situated behind the Oxford Street department store, is currently operated by Thistle Hotels. The lease is due to run until June 2001.

Total rent paid last year for the hotel, which has 294 bedrooms, a cocktail bar, two restaurants and four function rooms, was £1.94 million, which is considered low by Central London hotel standards. Selfridges will be looking for a higher return from the operation.

The company owns the freehold on the whole Oxford Street site and recently had the

entire building revalued at £325 million. Analysts believe that the hotel, which is central but not in a prime location, is likely to account for about £50 million of this valuation.

Work on re-vamping the four-star hotel is not going to start until its future is settled. Selfridges is likely to begin talks with potential partners in the autumn and will discuss sharing the cost of the work. Thistle may wish to renew the contract, but has put itself up for sale and is likely to be taken over. Nomura is thought to be among the leading contenders.

Selfridges' costs are also set to be examined by the new independent management, led by Alan Cathcart as chairman and Vittorio Radice as chief executive.

High street fights back

By SARAH CUNNINGHAM

IN A reversal of one of the big trends in retailing of recent years, high street furniture stores appear to be winning business at the expense of the large out-of-town operators such as MFI and DFS.

Both these companies plus Carpetright and Allied Carpets, the two largest carpet retailers in Britain, have issued profit warnings as sales have fallen away. According to research published today, the

same problems are not afflicting the more expensive high street shops.

"The consumers that are buying are the more affluent going for premium products," Verdict, the retailing consultancy, says in its report on furniture and carpet retailers.

The furniture market grew 10.4 per cent to £8.7 billion last year while the carpet market grew 9.4 per cent to £2.5 billion. Both sectors are suffering from the disappearance of the building society windfalls.

Hirst restaurant may reach £10m valuation

By DOMINIC WALSH

PHARMACY, the trendy London restaurant opened last year by Damien Hirst, the pickled sheep artist, and Matthew Freud, the showbiz PR, is to join the stock market in a reverse takeover of Hartford, an AIM-listed shell company.

On Friday, Hartford asked for trading in its shares to be suspended at 2.4p, saying it was "in discussions which may or may not lead to a substantial acquisition". The Pharmacy deal, which should be announced within the next two weeks, is expected to value the Notting Hill restaurant at a chunky £10 million.

The chief executive's job will go either to Mr Freud or his associate Jonathan Kennedy, a shareholder in Pharmacy. Property entrepreneurs Nigel Wray and Nick Leslau, who between them own about a third of the restaurant, will become non-executive directors. All will swap their stakes for shares in the new vehicle.

Mr Freud, whose PR clients have included Geri Halliwell, the former Spice Girl, and a string of restaurant companies including Hard Rock Cafe, Planet Hollywood and Cafe Rouge, said the stock market listing would be used to build a chain of individual restaurants as well as developing new mid-market and fast food concepts.

He said it "not inconceivable" that Quo Vadis, the Soho eatery where some of Mr Hirst's works are displayed, could be acquired by the company. Messrs Freud and Hirst are part-owners of Quo Vadis with Marco Pierre White, the controversial Michelin-starred chef.

Pharmacy, which recently agreed to change its name to Pharmacy Restaurant & Bar after a spat with the Royal Pharmaceutical Society, is just the latest big-ticket deal involving restaurants. Mogens Tholstrup recently sold three London restaurants to Belgoo Group for £9.3 million while Bass paid £35 million for the seven-strong Browns chain.

One analyst said yesterday: "The prices some of these restaurants are going for are incredible. All of this has a distinct top-of-the-market whiff about it." However, Mr Freud claimed Pharmacy had been "completely full for 6½ months" and was "unbelievably profitable".



Hirst restaurateur

CCH joins the list of World Cup failures

By MATTHEW BARBOUR

THE latest in a string of corporate hospitality companies has collapsed blaming the unavailability of World Cup tickets.

Champion Cup Hospitality, based in Mayfair, has fallen into receivership owing more than £11 million to 54 creditors who paid up to £1,600 per person to entertain their clients at the event. This brings the number of collapses caused by unreliable ticket supplies to four, the others being International Championship Management, The Mall Corporate Events and The Sporting Occasion.

Set up in August last year, CCH sold 700 World Cup packages to "big name" European companies. It paid

months in advance for 400 tickets from a Dutch company called Neilsen Klinsunt Firma and 572 tickets from Great Portland Entertainments, the London firm closed down last month after failing to deliver 25,000 tickets worth nearly £2.5 million.

Unlike ICM and The Mall, however, CCH recovered £350,000 from its Dutch suppliers, which coupled with assets valued at £700,000, should enable the liquidators to refund the creditors substantially.

BDO Stoy Hayward, CCH's liquidators, said: "Hopefully we'll make up for some of the creditors' disappointment at not being able to attend the event itself."

CHANGE ON WEEK



US dollar 1.6404 (+0.0082)
German mark 2.9325 (-0.0357)
Exchange index 104.6 (-0.9)
Bank of England official close (4pm)



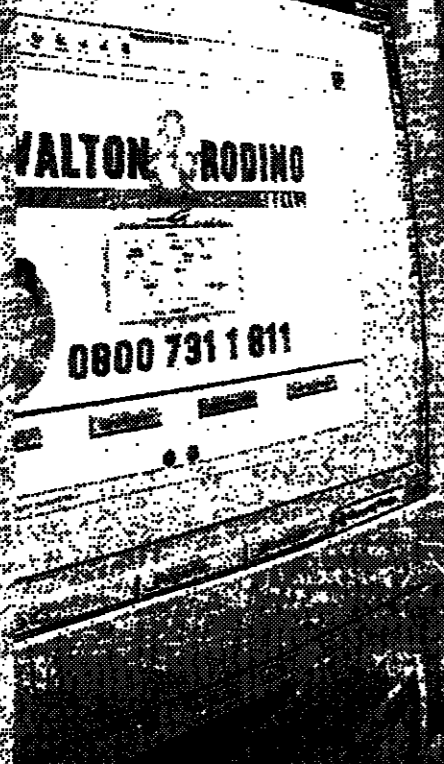
FT 30 share 3882.2 (+112.3)
FTSE 100 6174.0 (+244.3)
New York Dow Jones 9337.97 (+232.23)
Tokyo Nikkei Avge 16570.78 (+480.72)

WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 35
OBLOMOV
(a) Or transliterated *Oblomov*. The name of a character in Ivan Goncharov's novel *Oblomov* (1859), represented as inactive, weak-willed and procrastinating. Used satirically. Hence *Oblomovism*, sluggishness, inertia. "Most people in the same day are Bonaparte and Oblomov by turns."
RITARDANDO
(b) The musical direction indicating a gradual reduction of speed. The grand of the Italian *ritardare* to slow down. "There must always be a reason for these slight accelerandos and ritardandos which we call rubato."
SCHLAGOBERS
(c) Whipped cream; coffee with whipped cream. German dialect in which *schlagen* means to beat and *obers* is cream. "I consumed huge quantities of their Torve heaped high with Schlagobers."
PSYLLA
(d) Any of the jumping plant-lice belonging to the genus so called or closely related genera, which include several pests. The Greek *psylla* means a flea. "In 1907, two diseases appeared simultaneously — the so-called 'wilt' disease and the less serious insect pest 'psylla'."

SOLUTION TO WINNING CHESS MOVE
1. Rc5! wins material as if 1... Qxc5 2 Nc6+ wins the queen.

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Bae likely to lose out from U-turn by French Government

FROM ADAM SAGE IN PARIS

FRENCH industrialists believe they have won a campaign to freeze British Aerospace out of a new European tactical missile company that is likely to be approved by the French Government.

They say ministers are ready to cave in and allow the state-owned Aérospatiale to combine its missile activities with Thomson-CSF, the recently privatised defence-electronics group.

Critics say Lionel Jospin, the Prime Minister of France, has placed nationalism ahead of industrial logic in his approach to European defence industry consolidation.

Alain Richard, Defence Minister, originally argued for an alliance between Aérospatiale and Matra Bae Dynamics, a joint venture comprising Lagardere's Matra Defence, Bae and LFK, the missiles unit of Daimler-Benz Aerospace.

Senior figures at Thomson-CSF, backed by unions at Aérospatiale, said M Richard's preference would cost



Richard: change of heart

jobs and "hand French technology to the British". They said Bae's size would enable it to dominate the group envisaged by the Defence Ministry.

"We are confident that our message has been received loud and clear by the Prime Minister," said a Thomson-CSF executive last week.

He said a deal between Matra Bae Dynamics and Aérospatiale was "highly unlikely" and a three-way pact that included Thomson-CSF

"improbable". "The Thomson-Aérospatiale alliance seems 90 per cent sure to go ahead," he said.

Last month, Jean-Yves Helmer, head of the DGA French procurement agency, said the hub company formed by Thomson-CSF and Aérospatiale would be opened up to include GEC Marconi and Alenia of Italy. The French authorities have said repeatedly that they want the country's defence groups to unite before seeking deals with their European counterparts.

Thomson-CSF, Aérospatiale and Alenia are working on the Future Surface to Air Family (FSAF) of missiles, based on the Aster weapon, for which GEC Marconi makes seeker heads. The FSAF system is intended for European countries who want to replace their US Hawk missiles.

Bae is, however, the favourite to partner Casa, the Spanish state aerospace company. The Spanish Government wants to sell a stake in Casa to a larger partner before floating its shares in Madrid.

All successful economies are alike. Each unsuccessful economy is unsuccessful in its own way. (Apologies to Tolstoy.) Suddenly, recession talk is all the rage. According to the usual doomsters, Britain is about to repeat its familiar boom-bust pattern. But is there a pattern? Over the past 30 years we have had many an economic slowdown but only three outright recessions. If there is a common theme, it is that Britain does not go into recession for purely home-grown reasons. Rather, as a leading trading country, she succumbs to international influences. In each of the three cases, though, there has been a particularly British aspect which has set the recession a local flavour.

The 1974-5 recession was part of an international crisis brought on by the huge rise in oil prices imposed by the Opec cartel. The home-grown elements were the natural backlash from the ram-pant boom of 1972-73, a collapse of the commercial property market which prompted a banking crisis, and a corporate tax regime which threatened to bankrupt the whole of British industry. All in all, a pretty deadly cocktail.

The early 1980s recession had some similarities in that it again coincided with an international downturn prompted by the second Opec oil crisis. This time, though, the purely domestic aspect was more prosaic, though no less deadly — the extraordinary rise of

Recession? What sort of recession?



ROGER BOOTLE

sterling, partly associated with the Thatcher Government's espousal of high interest rates.

In 1976, the pound was on the skids and Britain was in hock to the IMF. Four years later, the markets were talking of the Thatcher miracle and sterling was the new wonder currency. But manufacturing output collapsed.

The recession of 1991-92 again coincided with some international weakness, though this time less severe. But the domestic element was stronger and it gave this recession its special flavour. What made it very painful to so many people was that, for the first time since the war, the general level of residential property prices fell.

Moreover, many people had borrowed heavily to buy houses at inflated prices. Negative equity was born. The result was that this recession hit elements of the economy — both sectoral and geographical — which had almost escaped in 1980-81. Consumer spending fell and the service sector was seriously hit. London and the South East suffered badly.

Bearing this record in mind, where should we look for the next, supposedly imminent, recession? The international danger is not hard to see. It is surely the continued fallout from last year's Asian crisis. You could argue that the international scene provides a good reason for believing that recession is not around the corner. For growth is yet to ease back decisively in the United States, while actually gathering momentum in Europe. Still, it is early days.

The domestic element would probably come from the sharp appreciation of sterling. This suggests that, like 1980-81, if we do get a recession, it will be centred on manufacturing. But could there possibly be a consumption recession as well, perhaps associated with significant housing market weakness?

On the face of it, this is

difficult to imagine. Real wages are rising and jobs are plentiful. Consumer balance sheets are not unduly stretched. Moreover, although average house prices have been rising for three years, there has been no housing boom — except in Central London. So why should there be a housing recession?

Yet all this could turn before long. In particular, if industry really is feeling the effects of the pound as hard as it says, then unemployment will probably be rising by the end of the year. Although the level will remain low for some time, this change of direction could have a severe effect on feelings of job insecurity and hence on consumer confidence.

This could then feed through to the housing market, which should already be experiencing falling prices in Central London. What could be the special ingredient? My money is on severe stock market weakness, although this is highly unlikely to happen in the UK without a crash on Wall Street.

Yet for all this, the sectoral aspect is not the most important question. There are two sorts of recession — those that

are associated with, or even caused by, an upsurge of inflation, and those that are not. The first sort amounts to stagflation. The second produces the orthodox result of weak output combined with low inflation.

So great has been the mood swing recently that many commentators are starting to see stagflation on the horizon. It could arise because either a continued upsurge of earnings or a sharp fall of the pound push inflation higher. As for the "stag" bit, we need look no further than the MPC. Confronted with higher inflation, they would surely raise interest rates much further.

Yet corporate profits are historically high and competitive forces are intensifying. I suspect that we could see continued earnings growth at the current level for some time, combined even with weaker sterling, and we still would not see much effect on inflation.

Profit margins would take the strain. Indeed, if demand is simultaneously very weak, then inflation may even fall back just as it did after the 1992 devaluation — which was widely predicted to lead to inflationary disaster.

So will there be a recession? Call me a wimp, if you like. But I believe it all depends on what happens in America. The British economy is still too soundly based to produce a home-grown recession. But it is also too precarious to withstand the force of a storm blowing across the Atlantic.

Table with multiple columns listing company names, share prices, and financial metrics. Includes sections for '1998 High', '1998 Low', and '1998 Mid cap (million)'. Lists companies like AFA Systems, Access Corp, Alfa Group, etc.

Complacency warning from PwC

By RICHARD MILES

UK FUND managers have allowed their costs to spiral out of control, posing a significant threat to their profitability if stock markets were to fall by 10 per cent.

A survey published today by PricewaterhouseCoopers, the accountant, suggests that one in five fund managers could be plunged into the red in the event of even a minor correction in stock markets.

Ten years of rising markets have generated strong profits for the industry. But with increasing revenues, costs have been allowed to grow in excess of normal inflation pressure, says PwC.

Graham Wright, a PwC partner, says: "If the industry remains complacent, there will be casualties as when markets go into reverse."

BIC seeks £1m for start-up centre

By RICHARD MILES

A CAMBRIDGE company hopes to raise £1 million on Ofex, the speculative share market, to help to fund what is claimed to be Britain's first financial incubator for bioscience companies.

Bioscience Innovation Centre has agreed to lease on a profit-sharing basis a £4.5 million 25,000 sq ft building being funded by Scottish Life on St John's Innovation Park, Cambridge, to house a dozen start-up bioscience companies as tenants. Scottish Life may then co-operate with BIC at further sites near universities.

BIC intends to choose, help, advise and mentor these start-up companies, usually in exchange for an equity stake which it expects to be realised in about three years.

David Best, chief executive, will have a team of experts to

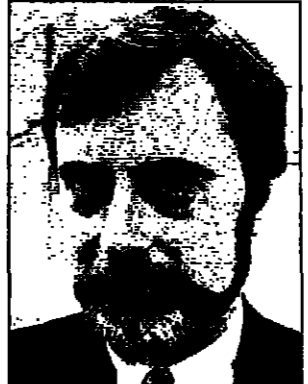
Press Corp to list with likely tag of £39m

By RICHARD MILES

THE local company in Malawi lists in London this morning. Press Corp, with interests in brewing, tobacco processing, banking and insurance, is expected to have a market capitalisation of \$63 million (£39 million).

The listing, which has been arranged by Flemings, takes the form of a global depository receipt. Flemings raised \$24 million for Press Corp through a private placement with institutions in March, followed by two more worth a total of \$23.7 million. Press Trust, a charitable foundation for the people of Malawi, is reducing its shareholding from 93 per cent to 49 per cent.

This year Press Corp plans to join the other four companies on the Malawi stock exchange, established in 1994.



Best will choose clients

select the embryonic research businesses and help them to grow. BIC's own business plan assumes a 60 per cent success rate for the chosen companies. Talks are underway with several.

Advertisement for BT's 0800 number service. Text: 'Now it costs as much to set up an 0800 number as it does to call one.' Includes BT logo and contact information: 'Freefone 0800 800 800'. Bottom text: 'Why not change the way we work? BT'

A googly, a creditable century and a duck

Two ambitious two-parters dominated Saturday and Sunday night. Little White Lies (BBC1) was an adaptation of Elizabeth McGregor's psychological thriller...

death here than wandering around a Brazilian shantytown pointing at your Rolex. The commuter belt has replaced Agatha Christie's country houses as the favoured site of repressed rage, murder and revenge...

quicker in his barn conversion. Everybody loved the cat, so it had to die horribly, stuffed down the bowl of a neglected lavatory. The drama hinged on the hatred between the highly strung Julia (Cherie Lunghi) and the smarmy Oliver (Peter Bowles)...



Paul Hoggart

We were twisted this way and that, as confused as Beth herself, as we worked round to the revelation that Julia was a dangerous lunatic, suffering from "Munchausen's syndrome by proxy"...

As so often, skilful and convincing acting kept the tension going well beyond its thrill-by-date. But with every new revelation the characters' behaviour seemed more improbable and unconvincing...

and wanted, like Julia, to hit somebody on the temple with a lump of rock. I badly needed something to calm me down, which came in the form of Runcie's slow-paced life of Britain's most successful modern artist. Compared with those of the house-inverting, sheep-pickling, body-mutilating of today, Henry Moore's career seems to have been extraordinarily free of public fuss...

would stand next to a much bigger Hepworth. A succession of elderly ladies explained how, as young women, they had fancied him to bits, but that he or they were much too proper to do anything about it. Several clearly regretted this. Respectfully, the programme traced his artistic development from the country walks with his former coalminer father...

a man whose visual language found a unity between the structures of the human form and those of nature, investing both with suggestions of elemental emotions. Moore's significance in world art seems enormous, yet he has never become a national icon, probably because he was neither neurotic nor an attention-seeker. He was "a normal, happy human being who found what he wanted to do with his life and was fortunate enough to be able to do it"...

BBC1 TV schedule table listing programs like 6.00am Business Breakfast, 7.00 BBC Breakfast News, 9.00 All Over the Shop, etc.

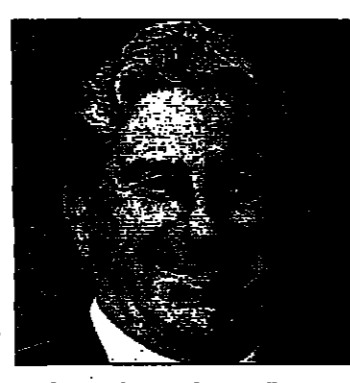
BBC2 TV schedule table listing programs like 6.10am Putting Training to Work, 7.00 Teletubbies, 9.50 Judge Judy, etc.

HTV TV schedule table listing programs like 6.00am GMTV, 9.25 Extreme Dinosaurs, 9.50 Judge Judy, etc.

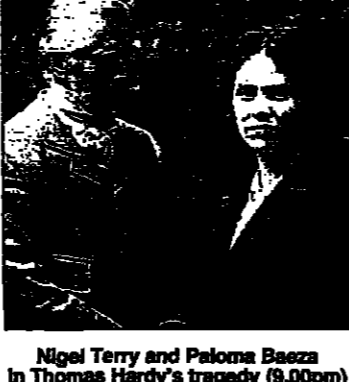
CENTRAL TV schedule table listing programs like As HTV West except, 1.00pm A Country Practice, 1.30 The Jerry Springer Show, etc.

CHANNEL 4 TV schedule table listing programs like 6.00am Sesame Street, 7.00 The Big Breakfast, 9.00 The Bigger Breakfast, etc.

CHANNEL 5 TV schedule table listing programs like 6.00am 5 News and Sport, 7.00 WideWorld, 9.00 Starting from Scratch, etc.



Jeremy Isaacs, former director of the Royal Opera House



Nigel Terry and Paloma Baeza in Thomas Hardy's tragedy



Helen Duncan who was tried as a witch in wartime



Annie Miles as Maria who has her eye on Jack's money

VIDEO PLUS+ and VIDEO Plus+ codes. The numbers after each programme are for VIDEO Plus+ programming...

9.30 Trouble at the House. Cameras return to the Royal Opera House in Covent Garden.

9.00 Far from the Madding Crowd (3/4). Bathsheba secretly marries the dashing Sergeant Troy.

9.00 The Big Breakfast (43/33). 9.05 Johnny Bravo (34/34/35). 9.30 Saved by the Bell (78/56/57).

9.00 Secret History: Witch Hunt. Reconstructing the trial of Helen Duncan, who in 1944 was accused of being a witch...

9.00 Family Affairs. Maria makes plans to meet Jack (1/16/70/20).

SKY 1 TV schedule table listing programs like 8.00am Tainted Teenage Alien Fighters, 9.00am The Simpsons, etc.

SKY MOVIES SCREEN 2 TV schedule table listing programs like 6.00am The Lord of Christmas, 8.00am The Simpsons, etc.

SKY SPORTS 3 TV schedule table listing programs like 12.00 This Week in Baseball, 12.30pm High Five, etc.

EUROSPORT TV schedule table listing programs like 7.00am Motorcycling, 8.00am Touring Car, etc.

FOX KIDS NETWORK TV schedule table listing programs like 8.00pm Power Rangers Turbo, 8.30pm Donkey Kong Country, etc.

BRAVO TV schedule table listing programs like 8.00pm The A-Team, 8.30pm Real Starters, etc.

TRAVEL [CABLE] TV schedule table listing programs like 12.00 Travel Talk, 12.30pm On The Horizon, etc.

SATELLITE AND CABLE



Spots before the eyes on screen in 101 Dalmatians - The Series (Disney, 4.00pm)

GRANADA PLUS TV schedule table listing programs like 8.00pm The Bar, 8.30pm On the Edge, etc.

CARTOON NETWORK TV schedule table listing programs like All your favourite cartoons broadcast from 8.00pm to 8.30pm, seven days a week.

DISNEY CHANNEL TV schedule table listing programs like 6.00am Bonkers, 6.25pm Quick Pack, etc.

HOME & LEISURE TV schedule table listing programs like 8.00pm The Joy of Painting, 8.25pm The Home and Leisure Hour, etc.

THE HISTORY CHANNEL TV schedule table listing programs like 4.00pm Battleground, 4.30pm World War One, etc.



COMPANIES 43

SB seeks relief from a strong dose of sterling

BUSINESS

ON A THEME 45

Roger Bootle on the patterns of recession



BUSINESS EDITOR Patience Wheatcroft

MONDAY JULY 20 1998

Nationwide to seek protection against conversion

BY CAROLINE MERRELL

THE Nationwide Building Society will press the Government to introduce new rules to protect societies against member attempts to force conversion, if it wins this week's crucial vote on the issue.

The society estimates that it spends about £3 million each time it has to fend off an attempt by members to force conversion. A spokesman said: "It is like holding a general election each year."

Helen Liddell, Economic Secretary to the Treasury, has already rejected an attempt by Nationwide to make it harder for members to stand for the board and force conversion.

However, political support for the society's plans for protection is growing. The House of Commons is expected to debate the future of building societies on Wednesday, 24 hours ahead of the result of the crucial poll to decide on the future of Nationwide. The debate was called by

Andrew Love, Labour MP for Edmonton and chairman of the House of Commons all-party building societies group.

More than two million people are expected to vote on whether to elect the eccentric Michael Hardern, a freelance butler and carpetbagger extraordinaire, as well as whether to elect Andrew Muir, a recruitment consultant. Both favour Nationwide floating.

The poll also asks 4.9 million members whether, in principle, they are in favour of

Nationwide converting to a bank with plc status. If the vote goes against Nationwide's management, it will immediately call a board meeting to decide what action should be taken. The board is believed to favour a sale to a buyer such as Lloyds TSB or Prudential, rather than a straightforward flotation like Halifax, Woolwich or Alliance & Leicester.

The society believes that the poll this year will be much closer than last year's vote, where the board won by a three-to

one margin. Last week, it extended the deadline for voting to Tuesday in an attempt to encourage more people to vote in favour of the society remaining mutual. Yesterday, the society admitted that it was behind with counting the votes.

The result of the board-member elections will be announced on Wednesday, one day ahead of the announcement on the conversion poll itself. If the society is forced to convert, members will be in line for an estimated windfall of £2,000.

The remaining societies could be forced to reconsider their commitment to mutuality, if the Nationwide vote goes against the board. The societies that could be in a position to float include Bradford & Bingley and Britannia. Both are keen to remain mutual.

If, on the other hand, the board wins the vote, it will not have to face another onslaught for three years. If the vote is close, but the board still wins, then the society could face a hostile takeover bid.

UK becomes 'the sick man of Europe'

BY ALASDAIR MURRAY AND CHRISTINE BUCKLEY

THE economy is headed for trouble in the wake of Gordon Brown's announcement of government spending plans for the next three years, economists claim.

Salomon Smith Barney, the international investment bank, said that the "golden economy" had become "the sick man of Europe".

It said that Britain faced weak growth, rising unemployment, a rising budget deficit and a widening trade gap.

A separate report using the Treasury's own computer model of the economy says that the Chancellor's spending plans will make it impossible for the Bank of England to cut rates in the next 18 months and will send unemployment up to 2 million by the next election.

The Ernst & Young ITEM Club says that public spending will enhance inflationary dangers that are already high. It says the Bank will need to raise interest rates sharply to stamp out inflation and maintain credibility.

The report argues that even if the Bank's Monetary Policy Committee increases rates to 7.75 per cent next month, it will not hit the inflation target because it did not raise rates in the spring and higher wage deals became the norm.

A wave of public sector

strikes could send average earnings growth even higher from the autumn as angry workers try to close the growing gap between private and public sector wages.

Inflation is forecast to climb above 3 per cent later this year and will have dangerously close to the 3.5 per cent level, which would oblige Eddie George, the Governor of the Bank of England, to write to the Chancellor to explain why inflation is so far off target.

GDP growth will slow to 1 per cent in 1999, before recovering to 2.7 per cent before the next election but unemployment will have risen by about 600,000 to two million.

Peter Spencer, economic adviser to the Club, said that the only way to put the economy on track is for the Bank to take much tougher action to try to rein in inflation. Raising rates to 8.75 per cent would curb inflationary expectations while avoiding a recession.

Growth would slow to 0.7 per cent next year before recovering to 2.9 per cent in 2001. Inflation would comfortably hit the target rate from 2000 onwards. Mr Spencer said that only the PSBR would ultimately look worse, growing to a deficit of 1 per cent of GDP, and that this was the Chancellor's problem.

The Government has al-

ready been given warning that the economy is slowing fast. The Trades Union Congress will today tell the Chancellor that unemployment is set to swell by 200,000 as it calls for a £3 billion package to boost jobs and investment.

At a meeting with Gordon Brown, the TUC will argue that the economy is slowing faster than the Treasury expected. This was supported yesterday by Adair Turner, Director-General of the CBI.

John Monks, General Secretary of the TUC, will say that a £3 billion stabilisation fiscal package is needed this autumn. The TUC believes that 200,000 more people will hit the dole queues by the second half of next year and berates the Treasury for not forecasting unemployment.

Mr Monks wants the money to go on measures such as extending and strengthening the New Deal programme for helping the long-term jobless to find work. The TUC also wants the planned rise in capital investment for local regeneration and social housing to be brought forward.

Salomon and others argue that the economy has run up against capacity strains, especially in demand for skilled workers, much sooner than expected, limiting the sustainable rate of growth.



Cocking a snook: a trader at the Paris Bourse, which is displeased by the Anglo-German deal

Paris hits back at Frankfurt and London

FROM ADAM SAGE IN PARIS

THE Paris Bourse will this week move to persuade Europe's smaller stock exchanges to join it in a "network" to combat the "treacherous" link-up between the London and Frankfurt markets.

In an interview with the newspaper *Le Figaro* on Saturday, Jean-François Theodore, chairman of the Paris Bourse, said he would unveil plans for an alternative network of European stock markets in September. He said: "We must develop the concept of a rival network that is multi-polar."

He condemned the British and the Germans for "proclaiming themselves first-class passengers and considering the others as inferior passengers".

Paris had been involved with Frankfurt in discussions about the creation of a pan-European stock market and accused Frankfurt of treachery when it linked with London. Although Paris has yet to give a formal response to the Anglo-German alliance, it will turn down the offer of a 20 per cent stake in the company formed by the LSE and the Deutsche Borse.

"We are prepared to cooperate, but not at any price," the Bourse explained. "We will not accept being marginalised in this group."

However, most traders see the proposed network as a bargaining chip, rather than a genuine alternative to the London-Frankfurt alliance. The Paris Bourse is nearly as big as Frankfurt but only a third as big as the LSE.

Parisian brokers recognise they are handicapped by high taxes and the absence of French pension funds.

Last week, Frankfurt went some way towards calming the displeasure of the French when Jorg Franke, chairman of the German-Swiss futures market, Eurex, said he wanted to sign a deal with Paris next month.

Deutsche Terminbörse, the FOR the past nine months, the Department of Trade and Industry has been investigating the activities of two clerks in the Stock Exchange's company announcements department who were sacked this year for allegedly passing on price-sensitive information to relatives for financial gain (Caroline Merrell writes).

The exchange said yesterday that the amounts involved are small, but the DTI does not usually investigate insider dealing involving less than £90,000. PricewaterhouseCoopers has been asked to do a Stock Exchange security audit.

German derivatives exchange, said that its planned link with France's Mafif remained on course.

□ The London Stock Exchange will open half an hour later for trading from this morning, at 9am, in an effort to cut out the preliminary half-hour of dilatory dealings at abnormal prices since the introduction of electronic trading on an order book.

TIMES TWO CROSSWORD

No 1462

- ACROSS**
- 1 Perilous; dependent on luck (10)
 - 9 Distended (7)
 - 10 Intermittent, faint light (5)
 - 11 Make cruel fun of (4)
 - 12 Infatuated (8)
 - 14 Out of the country (6)
 - 15 Animal ear for good luck (6)
 - 18 One looking on bright side (8)
 - 20 Steel-galvanising element (4)
 - 22 Accept a lift (3,2)
 - 23 Make tired progress (7)
 - 24 Again and again (10)
- DOWN**
- 2 Part (in play) (4)
 - 3 Put across, carry (6)
 - 4 Of parts of the country (8)
 - 5 Unconsoled (5)
 - 6 (House) one of two together (4,5)
 - 7 I have no idea! (3,2,7)
 - 8 Agree (6)
 - 13 Formerly Van Diemen's Land (8)
 - 16 Fish shop; carpenter (slang) (6)
 - 17 Tropical African fly (6)
 - 19 Add a little liquid to fill (3,2)
 - 21 Become boring; shroud (4)

SOLUTION TO NO 1461

ACROSS: 1 Hunch 4 Saddled 8 Rancorous 9 Ida 10 Star 11 Skylight 13 Hidden 14 Ethnic 17 Garrison 19 Spot 22 Imp 23 Desolate 24 General 25 Fend

DOWN: 1 Horses 2 Tankard 3 Hoop 4 Stocky 5 Desolate 6 Lying 7 Drastring 12 Bewilder 13 Hugging 15 Neptune 16 Morsel 18 Ripen 20 Trend 21 Fief

Shire Alzheimer's drug passes US clinical trials

BY GRAHAM SEARJEANT

A DRUG developed from daffodil and snowdrop bulbs by Shire Pharmaceuticals has passed clinical trials that show it can slow and possibly halt the progression of Alzheimer's disease.

Phase 3 trials of galantamine in America, unveiled at a conference on the degenerative brain disease in the Netherlands on Saturday, suggest that the treatment can significantly improve memory and learning ability among those already suffering.

The tests were carried out by Janssen Laboratories, part of Johnson & Johnson, with which Shire has a co-development agreement. They showed no deterioration over a year among patients with mild or early symptoms of Alzheimer's disease treated with galantamine. Patients given a placebo got worse, though

BP set for exploration in Caspian

BY CARL MORTSHED

BRITISH PETROLEUM is poised to sign a \$4 billion (£2.4 billion) oil exploration deal with the Azerbaijan Government tomorrow. The ceremony at 10 Downing Street, attended by President Aliyev, coincides with formal agreement on three separate contracts with British companies, including Monument Oil & Gas and Ramco Energy.

BP is signing up to develop the Abikh block, taking a 15 per cent stake in three fields, Alov, Arax and Sharg, in a 1,400 square kilometre area of the Caspian Sea. No oil has yet been discovered and the project will involve huge investment. BP and its partner, Statoil of Norway, and the Azeri state oil company, Socar, will be drilling 6 kilometres into the seabed in water up to 800 metres deep.

The Abikh deal is rumoured to involve a "signature bonus" for the Azerbaijan Government of almost \$100 million.

GPG challenges Young's over its share structure

BY DOMINIC WALSH

YOUNG'S, the family-controlled London brewer, has admitted it may have to change its controversial share structure, despite rejecting attempts by one of its biggest institutional shareholders to rationalise the three classes of equity.

Guinness Peat Group, which holds 17.7 per cent of A shares but just 7 per cent of the votes, has put down four resolutions that effectively challenge the Young family's continued control of the 400-year-old brewer.

In a letter to shareholders, GPG claims the structure

prevents Young's from realising its full stock market potential by impeding its ability to raise funds. However, Young's directors suspect GPG wants to force the company to close its brewery to focus on the more profitable pub operations.

Despite the strength of its objections to GPG's actions, the Young's board admits that if an opportunity arose to boost its 175-strong pub estate, it would probably be forced to revamp its capital set-up.

At tomorrow's meeting at Wandsworth Town Hall GPG faces certain defeat as the high-voting B shares,

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Abbey National Life £39.08	Abbey National Life £77.31
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